ACROSS / A8
₱210,000 bail frees 'salvage' cops in Laguna

WORLD / A22
Korea crisis: China pushes for talks

METRO / A19
Traffic rerouting set for Quezon City marathon on Dec. 5

BUSINESS / B1
Government sets P60-B T-bond swap

Church questions RH survey: You can't poll morality

By Jaime Aning and TJ Burgonio

AN OFFICIAL of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday cast doubts on the Pulse Asia survey showing that nearly seven in every 10 Filipinos support the reproductive health bill.

Fr. Melvin Castro, executive director of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said it was not clear if the people who said they supported the bill

CHURCH A7

2 House committees OK Noy amnesty plan

By TJ Burgonio

WITHOUT ANY FANFARE, two House committees yesterday approved a resolution concurring with President Aquino's amnesty proclamation for rebel soldiers, avoiding unnecessary delay in their release.

The committees on justice and nation-

HOUSE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Lacson won't surrender

Robredo dismisses bounty on Ping

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

FUGITIVE SENATOR Panfilo Lacson will surface only if the warrant for his arrest is lifted, his lawyer told reporters yesterday.

Lawyer Alex Poblador claimed ignorance of the whereabouts of Lacson who, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said on Tuesday, was hiding in the country.

He said that his last conversation with his client was in December 2009, and that his moves were being made in consultation with the senator's family.

Despite a request from the Philippine National Police and De Lima's endorsement, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo is not inclined to approve the proposed P2-million bounty on Lacson's head.

The reward may neither be "worth it" or "necessary," Robredo yesterday told the Inquirer. He added: "They have been saying we are close to getting him (Lacson). Then what might be needed is for law enforcement units hunting him down to just do the job given to them."

De Lima had said the proposed reward might help hasten Lacson's arrest or surrender.

Lacson has been on the list since January, days before the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 issued the warrant in connection with the 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

"[Lacson] has made it clear that as long as the warrant is pending, he is not going to sur-

LACSON A6

ANARCHY ON THE STREETS Police use a water hose to disperse stone-throwing "kuliglig" drivers who parked their three-wheel motorized pedicabs in the middle of the street. The defiant action was in protest of the Manila City Hall ban on their operation on traffic-choked major thoroughfares. DANNY PATA (CONTRIBUTOR)

'Dirty Harry' cracks down on 'kuliglig' in Manila

By Jaymee T. Gamil

"DIRTY HARRY" yesterday began a crackdown on the new "King of the Road"—motorized pedicabs, called *kuliglig*, that are emblematic of the dramatic deterioration of the country's public transportation system.

Police, implementing Mayor Alfredo Lim's Executive Order No. 17 banning the three-wheeled motorized contraptions on main roads in Manila, seized 81 defying the directive near 168 Mall in Divisoria and Legarda.

Drivers of the rickshaws—named after the manufacturer of the engine, Crusher—were equally determined to fight the measure, accusing the government of depriving them of their livelihood.

"We are not robbing them of their livelihood, but they have to follow the law," Lim said.

Tired, hungry and angry, hundreds of them parked their

MANY A6

iPad has real Christmas rival in Galaxy tablet

HONG KONG—Last Christmas, anybody asked if they wanted a "tablet" probably thought they were being offered a pill to ease indigestion caused by a little bit of festive over-indulgence.

PAGE A6

ANTIPOLLUTION CAMPAIGN

Gov't plans to limit vehicles on Edsa

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFT-CONGESTED Edsa may soon be declared polluted, or a "nonattainment area," to limit the public vehicles allowed to use it and the factories built along it, Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said yesterday.

Paje said the move was intended to limit the sources of pollutants that could further foul up Edsa's already dirty air.

He has ordered the Environmental Management Bureau to draft the order declaring Edsa an area where the pollutants have already exceeded ambient standards.

But he also wants to hold talks with stakeholders, civil society groups and the Depart-

GOV'T A6

TELLING THE FILIPINO STORY TO THE WORLD

Editors' Note: For 25 days, we will be telling stories about the Inquirer to mark the paper's 25th anniversary on Dec. 9, 2010. Some are little inside stories but impacting on how we cover unfolding events; some are mark-the-day stories that become talk-of-the-town topics; others are turning point stories that have changed the landscape of history; still others, big or small, seize the heart and never let go.

But whatever, the Inquirer will tell you the story.

Top business paper not a business paper

By Dante L. Lucas

THE Inquirer is not—strictly speaking—a business newspaper.

But based on the market-moving stories that it has published, it could very well be one of the best business newspapers in the country, as far as covering the most important issues in the world of business is concerned.

One reason for this is the fact that the Inquirer, because of its market position, has consistently been able to attract the best talents from the large pool of Filipino journalists.

Every time there is a vacancy at the business section, word gets around the industry fast, and a long queue forms (figuratively speaking) for the lone available slot among the tightly knit community of business reporters in the country.

Thus, the heads of the section—business editor Neal Manzolo and assistant business editor Cecile Sierra—are able to select the best candidates to augment the eight-strong team of reporters.

"This is where business reporters aspire to be," Manzolo told me during my second of a three-stage interview when I applied for a job in 2005. "What will you be able to

PHI'S TOP A6

Corpses 'beyond recognition'

By Miko Morales

"KALUNOS-LUHOD" (in a terrible state) was how Khadaffy Mangudadatu described the female corpses that he and his elder brother, Esmael Mangudadatu, retrieved from the massacre site in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, and brought to a funeral home.

"I pitied them," he said in reference to his brother's wife Genalin Mangudadatu, his sister, and other relatives who were among the 57 civilians killed on Nov. 23, 2009. (There is a reported 58th victim whose remains have yet to be found.)

CORPSES A13

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

'Ka Roger is alive'

LUCENA CITY—A close relative of Communist Party of the Philippines spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal from his hometown in Ibaan, Batangas, has belied reports that the communist rebel leader is dead.

"If he [Rosal] is really dead, it would be impossible that his whole family here in Ibaan would not be informed. And we have yet to receive any such information from his comrades," said lawyer Rosita Vivi Aligui Norberto Rosal in a phone interview.

According to Norberto, he and Rosal are first cousins as their fathers were siblings.

He said he has not talked to Rosal for a long time and has no knowledge of the state of his health.

Press reports this week said the military believes that Rosal has died from a lingering illness.

Military officials said they have raw information of Rosal's death but have yet to verify it.

A communiqué order of the underground movement issued in Southern Tagalog also claimed in a phone interview that Rosal was still "very much alive."

"The military has long been telling Ka Roger in their so-called intelligence reports to cover their shameful failure to capture or assassinate him," said the source who requested anonymity.

The communiqué order, maintained that if Rosal has finally come to his end, whether by enemy bullet or as a result of illness, "the revolutionary movement here and abroad will bestow upon him all the honors and accolades as a fitting tribute to his dedication and

KA ROGER

long years of hardship and service to the revolutionary movement."

"We will not keep his death secret. The death of any true revolutionary deserves public commendation," he added.

He derided the military for "spreading the rumors" of Rosal's death.

"The AFP should be embarrassed if Ka Roger dies from sickness and not from their bullets. They have long been targeting him but all their efforts have been distant failures," he said.

The cadre said Rosal's long absence from the media was part of the security measures that he was observing.

"Ka Roger is just around," he said, but would not confirm if Rosal was suffering from a serious illness. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Kidnapped boy, rescuer reunited after 13 years

By DJ Yap

A YOUNG man abducted as a boy by Abu Sayyaf rebels in Mindanao 13 years ago and the former hotel worker who had led his rescue were unexpectedly reunited over the weekend in a tension-filled country thousands of miles away.

The serendipitous meeting between **Mario Bebencio Jr. and Ismail Taway** Ground Boy A. Ghazali took place at a dinner held at the Philippine Embassy in Seoul on Nov. 27, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"I know his face," Bebencio, a 23-year-old Filipino scholar at a Korean university, said when Ghazali was introduced to the crowd of 300 at the dinner.

Recognition dawned and the young man approached Ghazali, whose encounter during the abduction of this overseas Filipino-based there following a North Korean attack on a border island last month.

As he introduced himself and told his story, a surprised Ghazali recognized the boy he had rescued, now a bespectacled 23-something, the DFA said.

The dinner was held for Filipino professors and students based in that country and hosted by Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was also in South Korea as a keynote speaker for the Philippine-Korea Economic Forum at Multi-Industry Clusters on Nov. 25, the DFA said.

A chemical engineering graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Bebencio is taking his graduate studies as a scholar on his third month at the Catholic University of Korea.

Bebencio was 18 when he was abducted, while three other people including a Japanese national, at a beach resort in Glan, Sarangani, in 1997, according to the DFA.

On the tragic Father's Day, his father **Mario was killed by the kidnappers** when he tried to resist them. The boy and the others were forced onto a boat in Sarangani, prompting Philippine authorities to immediately launch a rescue operations.

The kidnappers' getaway boat failed after a kilometer's travel caused an abu bayyaf late and eventually washed ashore.

Rescuers continued to close in and a gunfight ensued resulting in the death of one of the kidnappers, including the leader. The surviving hostage-takers ran away with the captives. But later realizing the small possibility of escape, the kidnappers left the hostages.

"We heard voices of people passing by. We followed the direction of the voices," Bebencio recalled.

"We found a road, three more people and a house," he added. Eventually, they were able to meet the persons responsible for their safe rescue, in particular an army colonel who he met for the first time on Mindanao on June 16, 1997.

Thirteen years later, they were reunited.

Aquino sees $100-B BPO profits in 2020

PRESIDENT AQUINO expects the business process outsourcing industry to generate as much as $100 billion in profits by 2020.

Mr. Aquino made the bold forecast during the opening ceremony of Discoverfest, a conference of IBM, the US-based information technology firm, at the UP Ayala Land Technohub in Quezon City.

From being a "virtual non-entity" in 2001, the BPO sector has become a candidate industry powering more than $9 billion in revenues, and employing close to 350,000 individuals in 2009," adds Mr. Aquino said.

He said the sector has contributed 10.2 percent of the growth in services that raises up about 49.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

He said the BPO sector has already contributed 3.1 percent to GDP growth in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

"[The government predicts around $12 billion to $15 billion in revenues by 2011. By 2020, your profits are expected to rise to as much as $100 billion, employing 20 percent of the market share in the global industry," he added.

James Wimmer, IBM country general manager, said the expansion strengthens IBM's operation in the country capacities in the Philippines, which serves more than one million client employees in 64 countries.

"This expansion demonstrates our sustained commitment to the country," Wimmer said.

Mr. Aquino's convoy was greeted with jeers and protest placards as it made its way to the Technohub. He had to make a detour in order to avoid the protesters so he could make it in time to deliver his speech.

The protest was sparked by student objecting to supposed cuts in the budget of state universities and colleges in 2011.

It was the first major violence confronting Mr. Aquino over the alleged budget cuts. Aaron Recuenco and Christine U. Avendaño

Lawmakers, aviation exec lukewarm to 'open skies'

By Michael Lim Ubac

LAWMAKERS ARE supporting Philippine airlines' opposition to the open skies policy that the Aquino administration is pursuing in order to increase tourist arrivals.

At a House transportation committee hearing yesterday on several pending bills to open up the country's aviation, PAL officials said it would only support a "fair and reciprocal" policy to open Philippine skies to foreign carriers, a statement that some committee members said they shared.

According to Ma. Isabel G. Gonzaga, PAL assistant vice president for external affairs, the number of airline seats was not the reason behind the lack of tourist interest in the Philippines, "but the country's negative image abroad, specially in the area of peace and order and security."

Mr. Aquino announced the open skies policy as the opening of the public-private partnerships and infrastructure conference last month.

He told foreign and local business leaders that his government would pursue the bill implementation of RA 1174 (the liberalization of air travel industry) in international relations.

The Department of Tourism is targeting to attract 3.1 million tourists this year, progressively increasing to six million by 2016.

Mr. Aquino said the liberalization would be done gradually, starting with "what is called pocket open skies."

However, PAL and House members at the hearing resisted Jalosnan's move to a partial open skies policy.

Jun Cabreza of the Civil Aeronautics Board told the hearing that open skies does not ensure more passengers.

Florencio Florencio, DAB deputy executive director, said many foreign airlines have numerous seat entitlements, but are not actually flying to secondary gateways or key cities outside of Metro Manila like Davao, Cebu or Cagayan.

"It is really a function of the market. Open skies will not guarantee foreign airline flights to the country. The more urgent thing is to address infrastructure, facilities, the image of country abroad," he said.

A representative of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said that while the country succumbed to the aviation blacklist, any law that would open up the country's skies would be toothless because of lingering safety concerns at the airports.

This prompted some lawmakers to raise the possibility of shelving the bills calling for open skies.

Gonzaga also claimed that foreign carriers already enjoyed adequate access to Philippine skies.

She said there are at present 47.4 million seats available to foreign and local carriers, but only 18.97 million seats, or 23 percent, were used last year.

Former solon Hortensia Starke; 89

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Former Rep. Hortensia Starke, the fearless critic of the distinct Hacienda Luisita, champion of the sugar industry during the dictatorship and staunch opponent of land reform, died on Monday after her home in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

"She was 89 and her heart gave out," her son Mark Rodel said.

Starke represented Negros Occidental's sixth district in Congress from 1987 to 1995.

"I am saddened to hear of [her] passing. She was a sincere, strong and courageous fighter for reforms in the sugar industry. We will surely miss her," said Commercial Inservice Insurance System chairman Daniel Lacson Jr., who was Negros Occidental governor when Starke was in Congress.

Rafael Coscolluela, another former governor and former head of the Negros Regulatory Administration, said Starke was one of the most redoubtable personalities in Negros.

"Hortensia brought a unique presence to local and national politics. She spoke her mind without hesitation and fought for her causes without fear; it was good to have her on our side during the difficult martial law era and during the early post-Marcos elections," Coscolluela said.

HK to hold bus hijack inquest

HONG KONG—Hong Kong will hold a public inquest into the Manila bus hijacking attempt which left eight Hong Kong tourists dead in August, a spokeswoman for the coroner's court said Wednesday.

The inquest is scheduled on Jan. 26 days starting from July 14, she told AFPbut has a month after Hong Kong police concluded their probe into the poorly handled fiasco which dented relations between Manila and Hong Kong.

Officials in the southern Chinese territory have criticized Philippine authorities' handling of the hijacking by lone gunman Rolando Mendoza, and a subsequent decision to spare officials involved from tough punishments.

The coroner's court investigates the circumstances behind a person's death but does not make recommendations concerning liability and has little power to compel witnesses to testify.Hong Kong is itself's.

Nine of my questions will never be answered—why did Mendoza vent cold-blooded?" hostage survivor Li Yuk-lin told the South China Morning Post.

"The coroner can find out the cause of death, but the answer to this we'll never know," he added.

A Philippine coroner spokesman could not be immediately reached.

Hong Kong police sent four delegations to Manila to gather evidence, including from the coach where the victims died and to conduct ballistic tests and interviews with eye-witnesses.

The hostage-taking on Aug. 23 saw sacked police officer Mendoza seize a bus load of Hong Kong tourists in Manila in a desperate bid to win his job back and he cleared of extortion charges.

Eight of the tourists and the hostage taker were killed and seven tourists wounded when police commandos launched a hostage rescue attempt in a chaos played out live on television. AFP

CoolSculpting is the new, non-invasive treatment that uses the ZELTIQ advanced cooling technology to eliminate fat cells and reduce fat bulges in targeted areas of your body. Perfect for bulges that are so resistant to diet and exercise, CoolSculpting will help those who need spot reduction for their love handles, abdominal fat, back fat or other specific areas.

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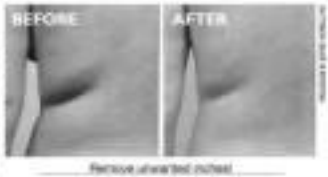

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'Dirty Harry' cracks down on 'kuliglig' in Manila

From page A1

sputtering junk on Padre Burgos Street in front of City Hall after police blocked their lines converging at the Bonifacio Shrine for a rally, pelting the officers with bottles and stones and tying up traffic for hours.

One policeman and a bystander were injured, according to Supt. Jolips Lallemit, and several protesters were arrested.

Lim, who as former Manila police chief earned renown as the Philippine version of the San Francisco detective in the "Dirty Harry" movies for his tough stand against criminals, ordered the cops out of the skirmish moments after battle positions were set up.

Lim's chief of staff, Ricardo de Guzman, said down the line was still on.

Tired, the drivers decided to converge at the Bonifacio Shrine. Some drivers, losing hope and getting agitated, started blocking Burgos Avenue despite pleadings from their leaders after police stopped them.

A last resort

"The Supreme Court is our only hope, but even they seem to be sleeping on it," Pineda said, referring to the petition he

DEFIANT Police arrest a protester after "kuliglig" drivers refuse to disperse following a rally near Manila City Hall on Wednesday.

crowded to City Hall, where

temporary restraining order. Atty. Augustus Boo filed last week against the ban.

The court, in a resolution yesterday, threw the petition to the regional trial court for Brgy. Ususan, Taguig, saying it "is the proper forum."

Cricket nation went unexpectedly deserted to protest small fishing boats, irrigation pumps and small generators. In their petition, they noted an small hand tractors, a move hailed by farmers as the start of mechanized farming.

Dignitaries Filipinos mechanics pay the relatively cheap tractors using diesel fuel as their pedal-powered tricycles that soon became the new king of the road.

Kuliglig in recent years' showed aside jeepneys that in the past decades had elbowed out buses from major roads as the government shied away from what in other countries is regarded as a major responsibility and giving away franchised routes to a major source of income for corrupt officials in the country's transport agencies. With reports from Marlon Ramos and AP

EMOJI BELIEVERS An environmentalist gather in the Mexican resort of Cancun to try to forge an agreement on climate change to avert disasters, hours as Edsa continue their many smoke-belching ways.

Gov't plans to limit ...

From page A1

ment of Transportation and Communication first.

The environment secretary made the statement at the Green Transport Forum in Quezon City where lawmakers and environmental groups pushed for the use of "green vehicles" and for the designation of Edsa and other parts of Metro Manila as an emission-free zones, as defined under the Clean Air Act.

Congestion

Paje noted the worsening problems of air pollution in Metro Manila, which is worsened by traffic congestion.

"I think we will be able to tick this problem with the call of Congress that we declare Edsa and other parts of Metro Manila ... as emission-free zones," he said.

Once Edsa is declared as a nonemission area, no new industries or anything like public vehicles that could worsen the air quality would be allowed there, he said.

The higher percent of air pollution comes from mobile sources or vehicles, according to Paje. The rest comes from fixed sources such as factories.

Suspended particulates

He said the latest study conducted by the environment department showed that air pollution worsened in the first half of the year compared with last year, based on the level of total suspended particulates in the air, solid or liquid particles suspended in the air.

He said he wanted a study conducted on the levels of PM10 or particulates under 10, which are small particles that could enter the lungs.

"We would intensify the collection of PM10 (data) so that we won't be sued," he said.

Traffic joins the other culprits on major thoroughfares like Edsa contribute to the air pollution because of the slower

length of time that a vehicle is running.

No matter how clean a vehicle's engine, if it is turned on for an hour, it would contribute more to the pollutants load compared with when it just runs for 15 minutes, according to Paje.

Green highway

In a statement, Southern Luzon Expressway Regina Ongsiako, one of the customers of the system, said Edsa should be paved and turned into a "green highway."

"We don't want to see the day when Edsa commuters and motorists will have to wear gas masks just to pass through it. We don't want to see the day when skin and dirt will develop the historic birthplace of people power," Montado said.

A plan to cut short the Buendia-Ayala portion of city buses is being pushed by Metro Mayors Council chair to address traffic congestion and, at the same time, comply with the Clean Air Act.

Only 10 years for buses

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista recently announced the proposal to limit the use of a bus to 10 years from US.

"In the plan, those who will not comply will not be allowed to renew their franchise," Bautista said.

Under present rules, a passenger bus is allowed to ply its route for 15 years, before it is retired. Once this is enacted, the operator has to replace it with a new unit to keep the franchise.

Bautista is the head of the special committee created by the Metro Manila Council to come up with ideas and make recommendations on how to address the rising traffic problem in Metro Manila.

Under the proposal, new buses would ply city routes, while old bus units could be used in the provinces. — With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal

2 House committees OK Noy amnesty plan

From page A1

of dollvan unanimously approved a motion to approve House Concurrent Resolution No. 109 purportedly authored by Speaker Feliciano Belmonte at its inner floor an hour of debate.

The resolution, co-authored by Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III and Majority Leader Reynaldo Guerrero II, concurs with the new amended Proclamation No. 75.

"That is a very positive development and good news to the senate that there are two administration-approving bills that will change that Executive Order and put themselves of the proclamation," Belle Rep. Mel Tapus Jr., justice committee chair, later said in an interview by phone.

HP 75 grants amnesty to officers and men who took part in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2006 Manila standoff and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege, all uprisings against the Arroyo administration.

The potential beneficiaries include detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV who is facing trial for the Oakwood mutiny and Peninsula siege, as well as retired Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin. Lim and Querubin have been released.

The Department of National Defense (DND) has listed some 376 military and police officers and men who took part in the three uprisings, but it's unclear how many would apply for amnesty under HP 75.

Home for Christmas

After releasing HP 75 that replaced PP 50 last week, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. said the other signed the proclamation was to get the rebel soldiers freed by Christmas.

The revised proclamation carried new provisions on coverage to include policemen, the reinstatement of soldiers and policemen dismissed from the service and back pay for the reinstated, among others.

Tapus said that he had signed the committee report and that the would be reported out in the plenary next week for debate and eventual voting. Congress adjourns on Dec. 15 for the holidays.

The debate on the third and final hearing centered on whether the presented applicants for amnesty should first admit guilt.

Bhadrinatha Rep. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the national defense committee, posed many questions on whether the three grantees should admit a plea of guilt before applying for amnesty.

Ochoa, however, contended that there was no need for this since no application for amnesty was an implied admission of guilt.

Who's qualified?

"Whenever they believe in wasn't have any consequences in the law. It will just be personal. If their statements have use in enforcement with their implied guilt brought about by their amnesty application, it does not matter," he said.

"Amnesty is about rule of law. If they apply for it, they would have to abide by whatever rules that have been set by the Amnesty Proclamation decision," he added.

The crucial issue, Ochoa stressed, was "How do we get our dissenting who are qualified for the amnesty and what is the right procedure of implementing it."

"We are exercising caution here because we don't want to have people who would avail themselves of the amnesty even though they do not deserve it," he said.

HP 75 mandates the creation of an ad hoc committee at the DND, which is in charge of receiving and processing applications as well as oppositions to them. Any aggrieved applicant can be appointed before the Office of the President.

HP 75 specifies that amnesty with ranks up to lieutenant sergeant for the military and second police officer 2 for the police and police are eligible for amnesty as long their applications is approved. It also says that members who are not retained are entitled to separation benefits if qualified under the law.

iPad has real Christmas rival in Galaxy tablet

From page A1

But this year, millions of people around the world will be glued to their iPad or other tablet computer instead of watching yet another re-run of a movie on TV.

Samsung Electronics says it has sold over 700,000 of its Galaxy Tab devices in the six weeks since its launch and believes at least a million will be in people's hands by the end of the year.

But that's still miles behind the iPad, which only went on sale in South Korea — Samsung's home turf — for the first time on Tuesday.

Apple has sold more than eight million of the gadgets since it went on sale in April but could have sold more, experts say, were it not for problems making enough to meet demand.

Kirby MacAdory under Vice-Chairman in Motion (RIM), Toshiba, Hewlett-Packard, Motorola, Dell, Acer, Asus — most of the big global brand names in the technology sector have a tablet computer on the market or in the pipeline.

Technology research firm Gartner last month said sales of tablet computers are expected to soar from nearly 20 million units this year to 55 million next year and over 208 million in 2014.

The Galaxy Tab has an 18-centimeter (7-inch) touch screen — slightly smaller than the iPad's nearly 25-cm (10-inch) display.

But Samsung says it will introduce more variants of different sizes in the near future.

Apple's first generation iPad does not have a camera, does not function as a phone and the company does not allow the iPad's video element on the gadget.

Those are all big advantages for Samsung, the company says.

"The Tab sets itself apart from other similar smart media devices by featuring optimal portability, flash support, dual cameras and phone-call functions," Samsung Electronics spokesperson Nam Koyong told Agence France-Presse.

"Owning a Tab is like having your personal library, entertainment system, office workstation and e-learning resources rolled into one device — that snugly fits into your pocket," Nam said.

While Apple has its own App store where iPad owners can buy software and games to run on its array of gadgets, Samsung and most other tablets run on Google's Android, with apps available from the Android Market store.

Exponential growth

Sales in tablet computers should see exponential growth in the next 12 months, analysts say.

"Tablets are basically new creatures," said Young Park, a tech analyst for South Korea's Mirae Investment and Securities.

"So this is a brand new market which is set to grow substantially. It will be interesting to watch how this market evolves over the next year or so. As more and more tablet devices come into the market, that will inevitably set into Apple's road."

Sales of tablet computers, Hong Kong-based Young Investors, will remain steady during the run-up to Christmas but will not increase significantly.

"A tablet computer such as Apple's iPad or the Samsung Galaxy Tab is hard to give as a Christmas gift," Young said.

"The main problem is most of them require a subscription with a network and you have to sign a 12-month or even 24-month contract. That makes it difficult to give as a surprise. Plus, they're not cheap."

The cheapest iPad costs $499 in America, while the top model is priced at $829.

Samsung's Galaxy Tab costs around $830, when bought without a subscription to a network.

— AFP

One of every 4 HIV-infected Pinoy is an OFW

By Cynthia D. Balana

A RECORD 1,201 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), constituting about 26 percent of the total 4,729 reported cases in the National AIDS Registry of the Department of Health as of end-October.

This means that one in every four HIV-positive Filipinos is an OFW, said Jerome Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).

HIV is the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), by killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system. HIV progressively destroys its ability to fight infections and certain cancers.

"This is very unfortunate, because if we look closely at the median age of HIV-positive OFWs, at 30 years old, this are at the prime of their lives and productivity," Herrera said.

He said that 96 percent of the HIV-positive OFWs were infected through sexual contact.

"This underscores the need for government to aggressively encourage safer sex through the use of male and female condoms," he stressed.

Herrera said OFWs were particularly vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases because of their exposure to foreign cultures that tend to abet high-risk behavior, including sexual acts.

He said Filipino workers, who spend lengthy periods at sea, are especially susceptible.

"Seafarers are often deluged by commercial sex workers at their foreign ports of call, and they have the money to pay for the services," he said.

Of the HIV-positive OFWs, 75 percent or 1,127 are male, Herrera said.

The Philippine Seafarers' Union is one of the member federations of the TUCP.

Herrera urged the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to include AIDS-preventive education in the free seminars for departing workers.

He said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration should also invest in activities that raise AIDS awareness among OFWs and their families here.

In the local labor front, Herrera said Congress should mandate the inclusion of AIDS-preventive education in all bargaining contracts between management and unions.

The TUCP also expressed support for President Aquino's pro-choice family-planning policy, describing it as "a courageous demonstration of political leadership" amid strong resistance from Catholic Church officials.

"We are absolutely behind the President's decision [for government] to provide condoms and other modern contraceptives to couples who would prefer to limit their number of children and avoid unplanned pregnancies," Herrera said.

He said the President's policy was "a fair and sensible approach" to human development and population management.

The TUCP is also pushing for the inclusion of family planning and responsible health clinics and services at the workplace in every bargaining contract between union and management.

ELECTION PROTEST

Binay, Roxas told to reply to each other's PET motion

By Marlon Ramos

BINAY

ROXAS

THE PRESIDENTIAL Electoral Tribunal (PET) has directed the camps of Vice President Jejomar Binay and losing vice presidential candidate Manuel "Mar" Roxas II to reply to their respective motions filed before the special election body.

In an eight-page resolution, the PET ordered Roxas to submit within 20 days his comment to the manifestation filed by Binay who seeks over Roxas in the May 10 election by close to 1 million votes.

The PET resolution was issued on Nov. 23, but was released to the media by the Supreme Court only yesterday.

In his Oct. 30 manifestation, the Vice President asked the PET to vote down Roxas's motion to conduct a random manual audit and forensic analysis of the votes cast for the position of vice president.

Binay, a former Makati City mayor, also asked for the immediate revision of votes and to acquire Roxas to pay additional deposit for the P33,279 polling precincts to be protested.

In addition, Binay urged the PET to hold oral arguments to discuss the issues concerning Roxas' election protest.

On the other hand, the special election body directed Binay to reply within 15 days to the recently urgent motion.

Roxas, in his petition, asked the PET to require telecommunication companies and the House of Representatives to "retain, secure, preserve and/or store" all digital records pertaining to the automated elections from April 20 to June 9.

He also urged the PET to issue a preservatory protection order directing the Secretary to "preserve and safeguard" the election equipment used in the country's first nationwide automated elections.

Aside from the orders, the special body noted 12 separate pleadings in connection with Roxas' legal action against Binay.

WikiLeaks effects minimal, says FVR

By DJ Yap

FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel Ramos insisted that the effect on the Philippines of the leak of thousands of sensitive US diplomatic cables by the WikiLeaks online whistleblower was only "minimal."

"Out of the millions of messages that were monitored all around the world, to which the US is always a part of a two-way communication, there are only some 1,800 messages that involve the Philippines," Ramos said in a press briefing.

Since Sunday, WikiLeaks has been publishing 251,287 diplomatic cables from 274 US embassies all over the world. Of this, 1,796 came from the US Embassy in Manila, although, as of Wednesday, none of the Manila memos had been posted on the WikiLeaks website.

Even so, Ramos said the practice of "cyberspace espionage" must be controlled by the most powerful nations.

This is so "we will not throw dominoes making it standstill since the instruments of terrorists who take advantage, who would exploit the situation to say there is any restraining or unfriendly situation that happened between two countries because of the leaks," he said.

Should his name be mentioned in some of the classified memos, he said he would be open to an investigation.

Lacson won't surrender

From page A1

lace," Feliciano said. "But if the warrants are withdrawn, he is going to surface and participate in the reinvestigation. I have advised him to respect the judicial process, but I think he has made a decision. I doubt if he will change his mind."

Finding the money

Robredo said the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) had to find the money for the proposed reward. "Until we can put that money to better use," he said.

Chief Supt. Agnimin Cruz, the PNP spokesperson, said the reward proposal was submitted to the DILG as early as Oct. 1.

Cruz said the proposal was based on an appeal of the group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption that the PNP put up a P900,000 reward for information leading to Lacson's arrest.

He said that after an evaluation by the PNP Directorate for Intelligence, the proposed reward was raised to P2 million and duly forwarded to the DILG for approval.

"It would be good if the request for the reward is approved. This would speed up the arrest of the senator," Cruz said.

Robredo confirmed that the DILG had received the reward proposal. "But it's not decided why the reward money would be necessary," he said.

Cruz cited the reward put up for the capture of suspects in the Maguindanao massacre, which has led to the arrest of a number of the alleged perpetrators.

But Robredo contested that the amount of P2M-200 for information leading to the capture of the massacre suspects was small enough.

Cruz refused to say if the PNP had information on Lacson's whereabouts, and whether the senator was in Metro Manila.

He said the PNP had its own "tracker teams" searching for Lacson.

'Focused critic'

Robredo assailed the justice department's proposed withdrawal of the arrest warrants against Lacson as an "ordinary crime."

He expressed surprise that it had refrained to reinvestigate the Ducoy-Corbito case.

"They should give due deference to the statute of Senator Lacson. He was a focused and very vocal critic of the past administration," Robredo said.

"I don't see why they have to post this counsel. They should give concessions on reinvestigating the case, especially with the new evidence," he said.

Robredo said the justice department was duty-bound to take a neutral look at the evidence, especially after the testimony of the prosecution's main witness, Cesar Mancao, was put in question by the testimony of Michael Sue Aquino and Rey Isaldo Chiongson.

The lawyer also noted that another key witness, Glenn Dumlao, had exonerated Lacson of participation in the double murder.

Aquino and Dumlao have disputed Mancao's claim of hearing Lacson and Aquino discussing a plot to kill Ducoy during a taxi ride, and denied ever riding in a vehicle together.

Grudge

Feliciano said the warrant for Lacson's arrest was issued in the final months of the previous administration despite weak evidence.

He said the past administration had a grudge against Lacson, who actively opposed the purported corruption scandals involving the then First Family.

Feliciano also said that because the crime charged was nonbailable, it would be unfair for Lacson to languish in jail while awaiting trial and that time to present his evidence.

P-Noy hands off on P2-M bounty

PRESIDENT AQUINO will leave it to his officials to determine whether the proposed to put up a P2-million bounty for information on the whereabouts of fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson should be approved.

The proposal will have to be discussed and decided upon by Interior Secretary Luis de Lima and Philippine National Police Director General Raul Bacalzo, according to the President's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte.

"Normally, matters about giving rewards] do not need the approval of the President. It's the concerned agencies that will have to decide," Valte yesterday told reporters.

Asked if Mr. Aquino was supportive of the proposed bounty, Valte said that she had not talked him about it.

Asked to comment on Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's favorable position on the proposed bounty, Valte said it was apparently De Lima's way of showing the public as well as the government teams hunting down Lacson that she was serious in her intent to go after the fugitive senator. *Christine O. Avendaño*

PH's top business paper is not a business paper

From page A1

RECORD-MAKING: Five business reporters—Rosalinda Lucas (2nd from left), Barb Bandino, Dom Dorotan, Abigail Ricardo and Clarissa Batino—were winners at the 11th Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines-Globe Telecom Business Journalism Awards in 2008. Also in the photo are Jaime Augusto Zobel (at left), assistant business editor Carrie Martinez, (2nd from left) and Business Editor Rudy Mercado (at right). *Photo by Ben Nabong*

even there to the scam?"

Knowing the similar quality of the source but he managed to compared with my own standards in the industry, it almost felt like a trick question.

The Business section, after all, counted among its past and present journalists the likes of Bautista, Arlene Chipongian, Doris Bertigin, Charlene Gutierrez, Ed Cabarrubias and Doris Franche, all of whom regularly produced big "scoops" and had countless accolades under their belt to prove it.

So it happened, I made the cut (despite my less-than-stellar grades) and made my biggest career decision to date: where I wrote about the so-called Legacy scam in 2008.

Legacy exposé

In a series of stories, the business exposed how a chain of rural banks owned or controlled by Cebu de las Angeles was defrauding Taiwan Semiconductor Corp. P54 billion after its and this group allegedly fled Taiwan there and, leaving depositors high and dry.

The stories, published from late 2008 to early 2009, was recognized with an honorable mention award by the Society of Publishers in Asia earlier this year.

But the Legacy scam exposé was just the latest of a long line of controversies in the world of business the business editor broke or made understandable for the public.

A sampling of the pages of the business from the last quarter of a century shows that the news organization and its journalists have constantly been at the forefront, covering develop ments in the fields of business, finance and economics as they broke.

Other scams

Not surprisingly—given the nature of the beast's operations—most of the biggest business stories in the past 25 years involved issues of corporate malfeasance that victimized small divers, depositors, stockholders and taxpayers.

Those include:

• The Bancap scam in 1984 when financial executives illustrate Sito, Victoria Magsaysay-Salcedo and their associates were entrusted with managing an extensive P1-billion coconut levying and holding operation using nonexistent Treasury bills as collateral. The scam collapsed after eleven (which included major commercial banks) demanded delivery of the non-existent T-bills, causing major panic in the local financial system.

• The collapse of Urban Bank in 2008. The mid-sized commercial bank was paid, locked by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas after it failed to service the withdrawals of deposit ors (called a "bank run" in financial jargon). The run was caused by reports that the bank had been propping up its controlled house subsidiary which had lost heavily in sound investments. The issues published an extensive investigative report that detailed the complex fraud, which resolved a citation from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

• The accounting anomalies at Victorias Milling Corp. in 1998 and 1999. In the aftermath of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis, it was discovered that the country's largest sugar mill had used an loan collateral repur quedone that enabled its accountants to "cook the books" and conceal bankrupting trend to avoid aid rehabilitation in recent years.

• The 1997 stock-lending scandal. In 1997, local stock market investors fell victim with a little-known property-stock named Best Pix Entertainment Corp. With enough hype, its stock price skyrocketed from only a few centavos to over P100 at its peak—before crashing precipitously in 2000 after investors realized that the stock was trading on "hot air," bereft of fundamentals incomfortstanding promises of an asset infusion by Mactan entrepreneur Stanley Ho to the JSE (owner Jimmy Tan).

• The sinking boats of the Estrella Bancassurance Plan (EAP). In 1999, the fortunes of EAP—a promising personal firm that guaranteed college tuition payments of its members—started to unravel and in the wake of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Investors reporter Elena Bautista was one of the first journalists to expose the weakness of EAP's system in a landmark special report published in 2000 that foretold the decline of what was then a lucrative private industry.

• The collapse of Pacific Plaza Inc. (the GNG the Yuchengco family owned Pacific Plaza guaranteed to earnings of its clients' deposits more than matched their college years), but the deregulation of the ordinary education system regime—compiled by rural investments ex- tums in the aftermath of the Asian crisis—resulted the firm's funds. The firm's run one of the first to report (and more importantly, explain to the public) the controversial scheme which the Yuchengcos tried to use (according to disgruntled clients) to save some policy holders at the expense of the rest.

More anomalies

• The Pantaleón Investment Construction group. The saga of what was touted as Manila's airport terminal of the future was covered extensively by the business after allegations surfaced that Philippine Investment Systems Organization (Pisos) was cooked by the Cheng family (the winner of the contract to build Terminal 3) was bankrolled mainly by the Estrada family. In the first Pisos Project AG to whole- tion of the scandal-ridden hotel and casino mega-project, its ocasion reported extensively on the issue, with to business to- positive providing crucial inputs on the business side to the story) resulted into a political row.

• The Supra-CBI power plant. In 1994, Argentine firm Induvi an Philippines Project mons SA (Impsa) won the contract to rehabilitate and operate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan chain of hydroelectric power plants (and, in the event, to build new ones) to help ease the country's crippling chronic power shortage in modern history. Allegations and counter-allegations quickly surfaced about alleged anomalies committed by Impsa and ranking government officials to secure the multi-billion dollar deal involving, Investment's energy reporter then, Clarissa Batino, covered the business aspect of the story in-depth, even as—like in most other large-scale anomalies—it rapidly evolved into four page stories al.

• Philippine Airlines' bankruptcy and closure in 1998. Having reported on the surprise emergence of unique Cathay Pacific rival owned of 20% urban government-owned (and it in the early 1990s, the flag-carrier was once more plunged into the limelight when its pilots' union staged a crippling strike, while the company needed from the decline in travel during the Asian crisis. The result was a brief closure (and eventual bankruptcy) of various airline groups from organizations could not fly and vital cargo went undelivered. Even newspaper deliveries to provinces and towns were affected.

• The saga of Banco Filipino. During the 1980s, direct ors of Banco Filipino led the bank then known as the Far East Bank & Trust Co. (acquired in 1995 by Bank of the Philippine Islands—another business scoop reported by Clarissa Batino). Far East Bank's president Jose "Joke" Fernandez was appointed by then Presi dent Ferdinand Marcos to head the Central Bank of the Philippines and later reappointed by President Corazon Aquino in 1986).

During his term, Fernandez ordered the closure of Banco Filipino after it suffered a run on bank run—allegedly instigated by the Marcos regime in the desire to take over the bank, according to the Ayala family who owns Banco Filipino (which legislators deny).

Since then, business reporters have covered the current legal battle between the current bank and Banco Filipino Savings Bank (BFSB) in the latter's bid to gain an P10-billion damage claim.

The long-running story hit a peak in 1999 when the Bangko Sentral approved Banco Filipino's request to allow the bank to merge with BFSB, effectively ruled in the latter's favor. The various details of the bank's rehabilitation plan were covered by Batino and Bautista, Bandino.

• The Globe Asiatique scandal. While not a product of the business section, the regular ly about what was then an up- and-coming real estate firm was made by the business's Central Luzon reporter Bonnie Ongoy. In a special report, she revealed how Globe Asiatique took out loans supposedly in a matter of days from the Home Development Mutual Fund (or Pag-Ibig) using fictitious businesses or persons who later disappeared having applied for those loans. All told, the company was able to borrow P6.5 billion from Pag-Ibig for its Nuvo projects in Pampanga.

Panel schemes

Other important business scams which the business has covered over the past 25 years include:

• "Pyramid" or Ponzi schemes involving Rose Baladjay of Multilevel Corp., El Shaira of the Master Management Group, Jesús Tibarsos of the Tibarsos Group and that of Wellfortune Investments Products Corp. The Wellfort scheme is high-net worth-and affluent investors in the case of $408 million.

• The P324-million tax credit scam in the late 1990s which jailed Filipino-Chinese businessmen brothers Felix and Panfilo Chingkoe against cash rebate (with each accusing the other of the fraudulent use of so-called tax credit certificates).

• The Philippine Investor Relations Group scam involving billions of pesos in the allegedly anonymous exchange rate of Manila Bay during the administration of President Fidel Ramos.

• The P1.2- billion "Bisaya" scam in 1998 which the business reported on, having allegedly been concocted by the wife of Bob Erdmann, one of President Estrada's confidants.

• The P282-million tax credit scandal-scam in 1997. The business reported on the issue in shedding the coincidences of Banco Filipino Presidente Cantor Domingo Monsalud for pleading.

• The 2002 Land Bank of the Philippines tax divestion scam which saw the bank's shares in Bonnie and subsequently bank realize Asia Resources. In an embarrassing turn of events, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo immediately tapped Bandino as the subject.

• The business also published numerous reports over the last few years about scams involving fake gold bars and the more recent rice-seam phenomenon.

• The business also published special reports in 1998 and 1999 about the multi-billion peso financial mess at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a pension fund made up of contributions of the country's military personnel.

Historic near-sweep

In 2006, the reporters of the business were named the best in five out of seven business beats by the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP)—a near-sweep of the awards, the first in the history of the 25-year-old business journalists' organization.

One of the biggest and longest-running business stories, however, is the so-called euro levy issue which has been running on and off since the Marcos years.

I was able to contribute a small portion to the large body of work on the controversy as a business reporter in the 21 years by numerous business political and business reporters.

In 2003, some business reporters from various newspapers were invited by Ian Miguel Cuny, then Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.'s director at the conglomerate's sprawling headquarters in Pasig City.

Coco levy fund

The topic of the evening was the coco levy fund, ostensibly by some farmers' groups to have already ballooned to P100 billion since the Marcos era.

Despite his age—and the era, more than regularly circulating about the state of his health—Cojuangco was persuasive in explaining how the coco levy worked.

It was, he said with economics, meant to improve the plight of poor coconut farmers by boost ing productivity across the coconut industry.

After most of the reporters' questions were answered, I screwed a few off-topic questions.

I asked: Was it true, as some farmers' groups say, Mr. Cojuangco that you are the biggest beneficiary of the coco levy fund? (At the time, the late businessman was behind the 1993 assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.)

Cojuangco looked straight at me, held my gaze and said, "Basil" (my given name), "I'm not that rich."

Cheap Omega

I guessed one. But wasn't he part of Marcos' inner circle...so enslavement by his economics (a choice) wasn't hijacked with the so-called "Bohol generals" just before the declaration of martial law in 1972?

Again he held my gaze: "That's not necessary. It was not a choice. It was a cheap complex choice—Omega. I still have it."

In saying the interview out of a lesson in both politics and business shows how both fields are so closely interlinked in this country.

It is no coincidence, perhaps, why so many business execs get in- posting about business the same way it excels at reporting about politics.

Church questions RH survey: You can't poll morality

From page A1

had reacted to provisions.

He acknowledged though that the Church needs to intensify its information drive on the bill.

"Definitely morality can't be based on a survey. If an all the survey results are true, then the most we have to explain (our opposition on the bill) to the people," Cuneta told reporters.

The Pulse Asia survey conducted from Oct. 28 to 29, found that 69 percent of Filipinos supported the RH measures. It also found that 86 percent of Filipinos were aware of the measures.

Cuneta advised against the holding of protests on the bill, saying the results may unduly influence lawmakers as they deliberate on the measure.

"Our impression is that they are trying to influence the legislators. They have to discuss the merits of the bill and not the number (of its supporters)," he said.

POPE Benedict XVI: Full support for Philippine Church's stand against the reproductive health bill AFP

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Mind-conditioning

The survey might also create a case of mind-conditioning while the debate on the bill is ongoing, he added.

Cuneta said one good thing about the survey was that it shows many were aware of the discussions regarding the measure.

With President Aquino's support for the measure, proponents had predicted that the House would pass the legislation by the end of the first regular session of the 15th Congress in June next year.

The bill mandates that the state offer modern natural and family planning methods to enable couples to plan the number and spacing of their children.

Prospero Pichay, GMA president and Tanjung Bishop Pimentel-Simbahan said the LDP was determined to proceed with its opposition to the bill.

Pope's support

In a statement, Odchimar, who was with several Filipino bishops for their ad limina visit to the Vatican, hailed Pope Benedict XVI's recent support for the CBCP on its campaign against the RH bill.

"We commended the Church in the Philippines for working to do its part in support of human life from conception until natural death, in defense of the integrity of marriage and the family and in the abolition of the death penalty," Didchimar said.

Didchimar said the Pope's message to them "affirms the CBCP's staunch resolve to preach and stand up for the Gospel of life in season and out of season."

The CBCP head said the Pope thanked not only the Philippine bishops, priests and religious, but also lay people for working together in helping promote a just social order—an apparent reference to the Church's lobbying for the rejection of the bill.

Don't be swayed

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile cautioned the government against adopting the pro-anti reproductive measure based on the Pulse Asia survey.

"If you are a politician and a leader, you have to respect public opinion, but don't be swayed by public opinion because public opinion might not be correct," he told reporters.

Enrile acknowledged that the figures in the Pulse Asia survey might be "true and solid."

"But nevertheless, it's our duty to scrutinize that law and make a judgment on it based on other factors that may not have been taken into account by the people who were polled because those people have no deep notion of what the RH bill means to a lot of people," he said.

House hearing

In the House of Representatives, Bikolnon Rep. Rodolfo Fortes, chair of the committee on population and family relations, said the question of when life begins would be tackled after all resource persons shall have stated their positions.

At the hearing, lawyer Jo Imbong of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines disputed Lagman's pronouncements that his bill, House Bill No. 96, was prolife, pro-women and pro-poor.

"If it's prolife we don't see a clear statement that it will protect the early embryo in life from the moment of conception," she said. "We find it difficult that it's pro-women because the bill is a question of health and an issue of health, and we've heard the testimonies on the perils of contraceptives," she said.

Supporters of bill

The Philippine Commission on Women, Commission on Population, the Commission on Human Rights, Institute for Social Studies Action, University of the Philippines Center for Women's Studies, among others, expressed support for the measure, and recommended its immediate passage.

Emilia Verroya of the Philippine Commission on Women said: "We ask the legislators therefore to exercise their political will now and decide on the bill. Each day of delay costs 11 maternal deaths ... due to pregnancy-related causes. We believe that this will save a lot of women's lives, improve the economy, save the environment, and improve the quality of life." With a report from Christian V. Esguerra

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Across the NATION

₱210,000 bail frees 'salvage' cops

STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA—Two policemen charged with the attempted murder of a female police informant now recuperating in a hospital here have been set free after they posted a ₱210,000 bail.

PO2 Mario Natividad and PO1 Antonio Marquis were freed on bail after they were charged with the attempted murder of Gaun Capistrano, 23, a police informant who suffered 24 stab wounds and was left for dead in a ravine in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Judge Jaime Bisenodler, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 26 here, issued the release order for the two policemen.

Capistrano was last months pregnant when the two policemen allegedly picked her up in Angono, Rizal, on Wednesday.

She survived 24 individual and a gunshot wound to the leg, before the policemen, thinking she was already dead, left her in a dark ravine in Barangay Pinagsanjan in Pagsanjan.

Natividad and Marquis were arrested on Thursday and were detained at the Pagsanjan police station.

Capistrano suffered a miscarriage as she recuperated in a hospital here. She kept the fetus in a box in her hospital bed.

In an interview at her hospital bed here, Capistrano took off her oxygen mask and answered a questioner without asked of her—how does she feel about her attackers? "Very angry," was her ready reply.

Investigators said Capistrano, tagged as a police informant, was a "witness" to the extortion rackets of the Rizal police force. She said she felt so bad about losing her baby.

"I had been taking care of my baby," Capistrano said, the last with the four-month-old fetus sent to her feet in the bed.

She had the child on a Monday, feeling excruciating pain before realizing she had a miscarriage. The baby just fell out of her womb, lifeless and bloodied.

She had to be operated on to remove fetal tissue. "It must be too much stress," said Capistrano.

The ₱15,000 that the Department of Social Welfare and Development gave her has run out.

The city Capistrano said she borrows money from the patient next to her.

Doctors had advised her to stay in the hospital until she fully recovers from her wounds.

Marivic Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Bishop leads bikers in call for peace in Mindanao

DATABATO CITY—Bikers from various faiths offered prayers at the site of the Maguindanao massacre on Monday as part of the Mindanao Week of Peace initiatives that ended yesterday.

Cotabato Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo led some 100 bikers, who included those from the Archdiocese of Cotabato, Diocese of Kidapawan, South Cotabato and Davao in the activity dubbed as Motorcade of Brothers para sa Kapayapaan.

"It was meant to highlight the ecumenical commemoration of the Maguindanao massacre," Bagaforo said.

Diocesan priest David Pevilla said the bike for peace was an interfaith activity that involved Christians and Muslims.

"We would like to rebuild the damaged image of our province and we call for justice for all the victims," he said.

All faiths

Priests, pastors and imams joined hands in offering prayers at the grave site in an hourlong activity, Pevilla said.

The group's activities also signed at the massacre site a manifesto declaring "spaces for peace" in all places of worships, schools and offices of media outlets and hospitals in Maguindanao.

"We advocate peace and we promote life, this is what every religion is proclaiming," Bagaforo said.

Fr. Amado "Pin" Picardal also led hundreds of bikers in Davao to call on the Aquino administration to show sincerity in peace talks with communist guerrillas.

Picardal said the apparent lack of interest by the Aquino administration to engage the communist-led National Democratic Front in peace negotiations was frustrating.

Free detainees

He said as a gesture of sincerity, Mr. Aquino should set free all political prisoners, including the so-called Morong 43, a group of health workers jailed for illegally being communist rebels.

"The Aquino government has been silent on these," he said.

The case of the NDF list said, must be resolved with utmost urgency because the "concern of the NDF is nationwide in scale."

But he said he is pleased over how the government is handling the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Over the years, we have seen the good and the worst with how the government and MILF tackled peace and conflict in Mindanao," said Picardal.

"Recent developments are very encouraging. And this leads me to the call for the government to not ignore, because it seems to be ignoring, the NPA and the government must not ignore NDF," he said.

The Davao bike for peace was attended by more than 400 bikers. Picardal was the only one who represented the religious community. Last year, Picardal also biked, along with environmentalists and religious groups, against the proposed coal-fired power plant in Mauban, Sariaguan. Edwin Sarmiento and Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

A PORTRAIT of the hero serves as inspiration to a clan of Bonifacios in Pampanga. Grace D. Macaraeg/Inquirer Central Luzon

Town with 1,000 Bonifacios honors its hero

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MAGANTOS, PAMPANGA—He was born in Tondo, Manila, but Andres Bonifacio has Pampanguan roots, too.

Thereby celebrating for the first time their shared kinship, relatives of the Katipunan founder gathered in the remote coastal village of Sta. Cruz on Tuesday to unveil a bust made in Bonifacio's honor at the Sta. Cruz Elementary School.

The school is probably the first Philippine educational institution to display a bust of the man who took the path of revolution to free the country from Spanish subjugation.

Joel Bogala, a history professor at the Holy Angel University, who helped organize the event, said Magantos has 1,000 people surnamed Bonifacio, while Binalbalan, from where the town was carved from, has 200 Bonifacios, election records showed.

The Sta. Cruz Elementary School has 21 children with Bonifacio as surname, said its principal, Elmer Garcia. But Cruz is about 5 kilometers from the mouth of the Pampanga River that drains to the Manila Bay.

In Bonifacio's birthplace of Tondo, only 502 people carry the same last name. Taguig City, said to be the hometown of Bonifacio's father, Santiago, did not have as many Bonifacios as in Magantos, said Bogala.

"It is our pride and honor to be relatives of Gat Andres," said Vincent Bonifacio, 62, who spoke on behalf of his relatives. Luciano, 84, is the oldest relative in the town.

"This tribute to Bonifacio is done through our search of his origins," Bogala said.

He said by two years, Bogala traced Bonifacio's roots here.

"The story is complete to them. They have captured the story. It is public knowledge," Bogala said.

Process said, the first man looking them in Bonifacio begins with Fausto, their great, great grandfather.

Luciano said, Fausto sired 11 children, including Agaton, Benito, Pelo, Manuel, Nestor, Dominga and Margarita.

Benito is Luciano's father while Manuel is Princess Bonifacio's father. Pelo is the father of Amelia, now 85. She recalled that Nestor often told her about paddling a boat to Manggahan, Cavite, several times to bring rice to Bonifacio.

Nestor, who died at the age of 115 in the 1990s, must have been 15 to 20 years older than Bonifacio, said Ferdinand Ginebra, history professor at the University of the Philippines.

Catalina, the hero's mother, is a native of San Esteban, another coastal village in Maragondon. Her original surname was De Castro but researchers made it Castro by unknown reasons.

How exactly are Santiago, Catalina or their son related to Nestor is not known. That's because old folks usually referred to relatives as pinsanbuyan (relatives), Ginebra said.

How Santiago and Catalina ended up in Tagaig or Tondo could be attributed to how the Pampanga River and Manila Bay became trade routes during their time, said Bogala.

"We now have to make studies on the life and death of Gat Andres to make them appropriate for history," said Garcia.

Process believed the Bonifacios share a common trait. "Many of our relatives are poor," he said, citing Grade 5 pupil Allen Gilbert Pasia, who recited Bonifacio's "Pag-Ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa" in the program.

Luciano's two brothers were also renowned leaders and Caviteños, which was their father's way of paying tribute to the heroism of the Bonifacio brothers who were believed murdered by fellow Caviteños.

The Magantos branch of the Bonifacio clan never bragged about our distorted their relationship with Bonifacio, Process said.

Its Bonifacio in Maragondon and Magantos is known to have spoken out during the Americans' period when people debated whether Jose Rizal or Bonifacio should be the national hero, said Bogala.

During the centenary of Philippine Independence in 1996, organizers or relatives of revolutionaries did not even contact them, he said.

Bogala said his interest in the Bonifacios was also aroused by students who claimed having Bonifacios as relatives.

Amid 'birth pains' of new OFW law, more PH jobs seen

LEGAZPI CITY—Advertisers in Bicol are increasingly churning placements abroad for local employment opportunities even as a senator and a new law that would give added protection for migrant workers were undergoing "birth pains."

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) official here said Bicolanos are now staying put and looking for local jobs instead of queuing for foreign employment.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, author of a new law that would compel the government to ensure every worker is sent abroad, said consensus of the new law were being tested by some fly-by-night insurance firms and illegal recruiters.

"For sure, it's undergoing birth pains," said the senator. "But it is designed to add protection for our migrant workers."

In a recent phone interview, Raymund F. Bandalaria, DOLE Bicol regional information officer, said Bicolanos "prefer to work closer to home with a less salary than go abroad."

"This is both good and bad," he said.

The DOLE Bicol listed a total of 8,097 newly hired workers under its Job Fair-Boss Program. Five stands for Public Employment Service Office.

Estrada said while the increase in the number of jobs in the country was a good sign for millions of job seekers, the reality that people would still go abroad."

"That's why there's a need to increase protection for them," he said in a statement.

According to Bandalaria, the job generating program of the region would put workers in jobs in the region's tin canneries.

Estrada showed that even if the hands, there are more workers hired or have applied locally than overseas," Bandalaria said.

"Family closeness is the reason our overseas workers are having a hard time getting workers from Bicol," said Bandalaria. "We believe that this and are already making changes in our job-generation approaches."

He said DOLE Bicol would issue from Metro Manila or Metro Cebu to recruit workers locally.

"We cannot just resort to cruises just for the sake of having investment," Bandalaria said.

Roy M. Stucel, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Nun, lay people seek manual recount of Biliran votes

By Jose Gubiera
Inquirer Visayas

NAVAL, BILIRAN—A movement in Biliran province is calling for the manual count of the votes cast in the lone congressional district in the May 10 elections.

The "Biliran Kinsay" Gi-Canao Sa Biliran), led by Sr. Erlinda Lanigan, said the real winner in the congressional race was denied his right to represent the people of Biliran province in the House of Representatives.

Then incumbent congressman Glenn Chong, who was seeking a second term, was declared by former governor and now congressman Rogelio Espina by more than 3000 votes.

Chong, a lawyer, received 39,669 votes against Espina's 40,618. Chong had filed an electoral protest in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

Lanigan admitted that the movement appeared to benefit Chong but denied she was his supporter.

"I am [politically] neutral. I cannot just sit down and allow cheating to continue. Chong and Espina are just the consequence of this action," she said in an interview on Saturday.

Lanigan said one of the "evidences" of cheating during the congressional race was that Espina was proclaimed by members of the provincial board of canvassers in the absence of returns from other municipalities.

She said prior to Espina's proclamation, power failure took place. It was a situation

> 'I am neutral. I cannot just sit down and allow cheating to continue...'

that ended of doubt, if not total anomaly, Lanigan said.

Lanigan said she would not stop the fight until they achieved the goal of determining the real choice of the people of Biliran.

"We will continue in our fight until the truth comes out. We would not just be silent on what is going on," Lanigan said.

Lanigan, who belongs to the Sisters for Christian Community of the Naval Diocese, had its raising funds for the campaign for a manual recount.

She said ordinary people, like political doctors, market vendors and students, have volunteered, adding that other local witnessed several troubling incidents in the course of their local raising campaign.

Among them was the act of an old woman who distanced them five peso coins, the only money she had, and the effort of several students to donate their own loans, Lanigan said.

"It only shows that they believe what we are fighting for, in our cause. Even who help or are people from all walks of life," she said.

Lanigan said the real will of the people would only be known through a manual recount.

Espina earlier said the protest case was just a manifestation of how some politicians refuse to accept defeat.

The country's first automated elections were hailed as successful despite numerous complaints of irregularities in the way the elections were held.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Good Samaritans plan road to remote school

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

INDEED, there is no mountain high enough for these Good Samaritans who offered to help Vagtas Elementary School in a remote village of San Andres in Quezon province by building a feeder road linking it to the nearest barangay road, 6 kilometers away.

"I can't believe it. What's happening now is a miracle," Allan Abanelo, a school teacher, said over the phone on Saturday.

He confessed that he had expected assistance after the story on how he handled 150 students was reported in the January and a Manila-based television in September. "But not this big!" he said.

Abanelo, 32, said four representatives of a local swinger from Daig City traveled to the Bondoc Peninsula last week and offered to construct the feeder road at no cost. The business consumed the leader of the group, but he requested that his name and that of his friend be withheld.

No hidden agenda

"My friend simply wants to help. We don't have any hidden agenda," he said over the phone on Monday morning.

Their offer imposes no condition from Abanelo or the municipal government, he stressed.

"But the project would be implemented if it will be a private-public partnership. A joint effort to help the school and its students," he said.

He explained that the fleet of heavy equipment would travel 318 km to reach the project site.

"If the government or anyone will also extend support (in terms of fuel, aggregates and other construction materials), they are all welcome," he added.

Sitio Vagtas is 26 km from San Andres town proper. It takes more than two hours of tricycle and jeepney rides along 20 km of rugged roads to reach the place.

The rest of the distance is another couple of hours of mountain hiking and river crossing.

The school is on the fringes of San Andres, the most remote political territory of the Bondoc Peninsula.

Abanelo accepted the assignment to teach in the area two years ago as a solo multigrade teacher. It served to challenge his devotion to his chosen profession.

The friend of the Good Samaritan estimated that the project would take several months to finish. Based on the group's survey, there was no existing short stretch of feeder road, he said.

"Mt will cross rivers and hills that would require aggregate components," he explained.

He said that the group was ready to start any time, weather permits, and if the documents being prepared by Abanelo have been processed.

Local gov't support

Abanelo said the group, which includes civil engineers, stayed in San Andres for several days and underwent an initial survey of the project. He said he immediately reported the offer to the barangay council and the municipal officials.

"They were all happy with the turn of events and wanted to fully support the project," he said.

To ensure the success of the project, Abanelo called on the assistance and support of Quezon Gov. Irvin Suarez and his father, lawmaker Danilo Suarez, and the provincial board members.

"The generosity of the company is really astounding. That's why I'm calling all government officials who can help to give the Good Samaritan a hand by providing fuel and other needed materials," he added.

Two days after Abanelo's story was published, a representative from La Salle Green Hills also contacted this newspaper and inquired how to reach the teacher.

Abanelo said a group from La Salle also showed up in San Andres and handed him books, notebooks, ball pens, T-shirts and slippers for his students. The donations are still being kept at the town proper and will be transported to Vagtas once the area occupied, he said.

"I have borrowed four cambon-drawn sledges to transport the donations. The residents were all excited when they learned about it," he said.

"But they all still have Christmas wishes—a couple of computer sets, televisions, DVD players, sound systems and a portable generator for parties. They want to explore the world through the Internet highway. God is good. He will bring in more good human hearts for my students," Abanelo said.

FLIPSIDE Vagtas Elementary School in San Andres, Quezon, cross a bridge on a farmer trail to attend the class of Allan Abanelo.

An All-New Way to Play
Hyundai introduces a new game-

The All-new ACCE

-changer

NT

IGH DEFINITION.

Introducing the All-new

ACCENT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Wicked wiki

HUNDREDS OF thousands of confidential US State Department documents, containing embarrassing secrets about policy issues or compromising portraits of various dignitaries, in full view of a worldwide audience—that, in the proverbial nutshell, is the latest and biggest WikiLeaks scandal.

All told, over 250,000 diplomatic cables were quite literally downloaded from computers linked to a secure (but not top-level) network, and were acquired by the whistle-blowing WikiLeaks website.

EDITORIAL

The first of a series of releases, beginning this week and coordinated with a handful of leading Western newspapers, including the New York Times and the Guardian, has thrown the international diplomatic community into turmoil.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, under whose watch many of the cables, at least those already released, were written, has condemned the leak and warned about the consequences to US diplomatic initiatives. American censors were among the first to call for a shutdown of WikiLeaks, while some of the feedback counted online called the release unpatriotic or downright treasonous.

Others have been much more welcoming or even indifferent. Italy's idiosyncratic Silvio Berlusconi laughed off the unflattering reports about him. Editors and columnists involved in the decision to accept the data and vet the information for several months have taken pains not only to defend the release but to justify them as in keeping with journalism's highest standards. Not least, online feedback seems to be overwhelmingly positive.

Perhaps the most balanced perspective on the controversy thus far was offered by Timothy Garton Ash, the celebrated political journalist who had the opportunity to make several "dives into a vast ocean" of information: "There is a public interest in understanding how the world works and what is done in our name. There is a public interest in the confidential conduct of foreign policy. The two public interests conflict."

In the Philippines' case, however, it seems clear that it is in the highest interest of both the general public and the new administration to discover exactly what US diplomats in the last few years have reported about the country. About one percent of the total number of diplomatic cables (quite literally downloaded by a lone US soldier from what was thought to be a secure military network, if the ongoing investigation being conducted by the United States is any guide) pertains to the Philippines. None is available for viewing yet (although data about the cables have already been collected).

Would these cables reveal the Philippine equivalent of Singapore Minister-Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's astute description of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il as a "likely-by-old-thug"? Or the Manila version of the estimate of Israel's Ehud Barak that the window for a military assault on Iran's nuclear facilities was down to 6 to 18 months? The United States, after all, is still a major presence in the Philippines, not only commercially but militarily. Its soldiers, ostensibly only temporary visitors, have been based in certain parts of the country for several years already.

It would be vital to the Aquino administration to learn, for instance, exactly what the popular US Ambassador Kristie Kenney may have reported back to the State Department a couple of years ago, at the height of the corruption scandals that plagued the Arroyo administration. Now that the Visiting Forces Agreement is under review, it would be crucial to the Aquino administration to find out whether special arrangements had been entered into, either in the forward deployment of American troops, or the handling of the suspect in the Subic rape case.

But it would also be of great interest to the Filipino people if the cables reveal either insight or information into legal cases involving former President Joseph Estrada, fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo associate Jocelyn Bolante and many others. We may not necessarily find an instance where Philippine sovereignty is brazenly set aside, as easily as a vice president of the republic is insulted by a member of the US Secret Service. But we may hear, for the first time, the real American priorities on such divisive issues as corruption under the Arroyo or presidential intrigue in the time of Estrada.

If so, it will be worth the wait.

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The underlife of US diplomacy

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WIKILEAKS IS digital guerrilla struggle in its most lethal form. It aims to fight those who dominate and oppress the world by showing exactly how they operate. Its one and only weapon is information, by sole technique is disclosure. The only ideology it professes is truth and its unrelated corollary: transparency, determining freedom of speech and freedom of information. Not surprisingly, its principal target has been the most powerful government in the world, the United States of America.

Many of us are familiar with Wikipedia, a global compendium of information about almost everything...a self-propelled digital collaborative project from below. Wikipedia's full form of wetlands readers are also its writers and editors. Every piece of information in Wikipedia is subject to correction. Sometimes, a topic can be so contentious that it becomes an instant battlefield of propaganda and counter-propaganda. Nowhere is Nietzsche's notion of "truth as a mobile army of metaphors" more realized than in Wikipedia. The reader is properly forewarned. But site is not meant to be an authentic source of the truth.

WikiLeaks, which has nothing to do with Wikipedia, also aims to provide information free and for mass use. But, because of the sensitive nature of the information it handles, its methods are slightly different. Using electronic drop-boxes, it receives secret documents from informants, usually whistle-blowers, whose identities are carefully protected. It does not alter news in order to mislead.

The volunteers and members of WikiLeaks verify and assess the documents they obtain for reliability. They then write a report. But post a document to connect and indicate its significance, and release this to media organizations along with the original documents. The same material is then posted on the WikiLeaks website. Readers from around the world who may have first-hand experience of the events to which the leaked documents refer are encouraged to share their comments with WikiLeaks and with their associated media.

This type of work is obviously extremely dangerous. WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, has appeared unannounced in various forums. Like a fugitive, he has no permanent address and does not stay in the same place for any extended period. He avoids media-initiated interviews. Any making public video and documentary materials that shows the ugly side of US imperial and corporate power, he is perceived to constitute a huge threat to American security and interest. Consequently, some people seem have banned themselves from his website.

WikiLeaks has done much damage, for example, to the US government's public projection of its role in Iraq. Video footage released early this year showed American soldiers aboard a helicopter gunship cynically massacre dozens of group of Iraqi civilians. Sometime in 2007, eleven people, including two Reuters employees, died in that daylight burst of gunfire. There are stories one often hears from the battlefield, but they carry a different resonance when ramped on video by the party responsible for the act—namely the US military itself. You can help adding who will protect the victims from those who are supposed to liberate them.

Of the many documents that have been uploaded into the WikiLeaks website, none perhaps are potentially more explosive than the series of cables from US diplomats from various American embassies all over the world to their home office in Washington. Spanning the period 1966 to February 2010, these confidential memos to and from the State Department numbering 251,287 constitute a virtual archive documenting nearly 50 years of the underlife of American foreign policy. This is a treasure trove for anyone who wants to do a dissertation on US foreign policy.

These cables, leaked by a State Department source, illustrate not only the cold pragmatism and arrogance of American foreign policy but also the opportunism and sycophancy of the leaders of America's client states. They document the collusion between US governmental and corporate power. They show American diplomats at work—cajoling, subtly threatening, and freely negotiating with host governments on behalf of US corporations. They provide glaring proof of the large discrepancy between what government officials and politicians say openly to the public, and what they really think about the people they deal with.

America's standing in the world had been massively eroded by the Vietnam War. It reached its lowest point with the invasion of Iraq, particularly after it became known that the public justification for the invasion—that Saddam Hussein kept weapons of mass destruction—had no basis whatsoever. The 2008 financial debacle of Wall Street, whose effects continue to be felt around the world, severely undermined global confidence in American economics, practically demolishing the last pillar of American imperial power. And now these secret embassy cables. What they show is a great and energetic nation that has been undermined by its shadowy government and greedy corporations.

I personally believe that the American people will emerge stronger from this demystification. Their democracy will be firmer and more accountable. Thus, there is no point in demonizing and burning down the brother guerrillas of WikiLeaks. They are not the enemy. The enemy is the unseen that shrouds the destructive and oppressive activities of governments and corporate organizations all over the world. WikiLeaks is what the mass media are supposed to be in a democracy.

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Heroes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD three stories from a couple of FB mates about how they discovered the Philippines.

One was an extremely successful business man who seemed to have nothing to do with the land of his parents' birth. He always thought the Philippines was the most overrated thing in the world. His business interests collapsed several years ago, and having time on his hands he finally relented to his parents' wishes to go and give the country a visit. He discovered, true enough, that the Philippines was the most wretched thing in the world.

But he discovered other things. That very wretchedness—the country was home to mosquitoes, cockroaches, heat and teeming poor—detached his problems by comparison and made them less catastrophic. More than that, he was astounded by the buoyancy of the people. Despite their poverty they had smiles on their faces. Despite their misery, they were not miserable. Everywhere he went, he was offered unbelievable hospitality. He thought that was an exception at first until he got it nearly everywhere he went—and as long as a Grand Cebu get-out on the island binge.

There she saw a video of a OF village in the Philippines and immediately felt a kinship with one of the beneficiaries. The beneficiary was a woman who had lost nearly all her family to a flood. The woman was shackled to three friends' home, and with tears in her eyes recounted how she'd scarcely felt for what remained of her family. The object felt her own troubles made away like floodwaters. She felt deeply inspired by the woman's fortitude and grace. There was someone who, in spite of the most crushing defeat, was willing to get on. There was a natural resilience to the race, her says.

I thought of this the other day, Saturday, Boxing Day, suddenly seeing things in a new light, from the perspective of others. For all our poverty and disorientation, we do have our wealth. For all our misery and abjectness, we do have our saving grace, for all our pettiness and inelegantly, we do have our heroism.

The poverty and misery are genuine enough, as American who worked for the World Bank told me once that Filipinos were the friendliest people in the world. You could see the smiles in our eyes, he said, and not just across mouths. Of course, he also said, we were also the most corrupt people in the world and, to my question like, "How did we get?" "Is the poor with?" and so on. But that was another story.

There's an underside to our generosity and smiles, of course, which is our startling capacity to tolerate oppression and crime. But it's made up for by the positive side. The OF, here in particular, who grew up in a culture where sequestrations and assassinations are highly natural, where success is defined by wealth and power and their companions manifestations, is a big bonus: so many true patriots and saints, saving people who are utterly bereft of them, constantly see the bright side of things and even give spontaneity of themselves can have the effect of an epiphany.

The recession in the US, which has deserved many refugees from it the full measure of their bounty claims the last couple of years, has already predisposed them toward that epiphany, inducing a kind of introspection I have not seen before. Gone is the swagger, replaced by bouts of anxiety and questions about where one is headed, what one has done in life, or with life. The occasion has offered an opportunity to step back and see how the dogged pursuit of abundance hasn't really made one content, if has made one obscene. You can read long last cousins not having the kind of ideas dance you've devoted your life to pursuing and not minding it one bit, you're going to have a final on the way to Samsonay museum. At least you're going to wonder what their secret is.

One capacity to bounce back also has to no doubt, of course. It can also be mind-bogglingly platitudinous, such as when you hear priests and politicians saying at the end of particularly cruel natural disaster—the Ampio eruption, the Pamalee eruption, "Bounce!"—that the Filipino is resilient, he will leave all this behind. Or when the same priests and politicos say at the end of a particularly vicious mass-made disaster—2009, "Della Cruz," the barangay crisis—that the Filipino will get past this. He goes on. A bitter sour of tale.

But there is merit in so for by the positive side. In the end, though, we are resilient. Even if that is to say we shouldn't rail bitterly against man-made disasters and bawl with anguish at our loss from natural disasters. All of that is to say that after a particularly cruel history one that has seen us a subject and object sure for close to 400 years, it is marvel to see us still standing. Battered like Tecopoto after 12 rounds with a bulk like Margarito, but, well, you should; see the other guy you should see history. All of that is to appreciate the fact that after us smothering barrage of life's adversities, we are still able to hold our heads up, if not always high, and look at the world with laughter. Or with a noose around our necks continue to fill the world with gallows humor. Sometimes people like to see called fools.

Sometimes people like us are called heroes.

Secrets of the Communist Party

DR. MARIO Miclat's "Secrets of the Righteous Mutineers: A Novel" (Manila: novel publishing, 2010) reveals in rich detail many of the covert factors that contributed to the growth of one of our country's biggest problems: the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The "18 mansions" are the buildings in a secret compound in Beijing where the Chinese Communist Party in the 1960s and 1970s housed foreign items of communist parties all over the world to facilitate their armed struggle in their homeground.

Mariano Ves, 17 years of the living quarters and officer in Beijing of the delegation from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founded and led by Jose Ma. Sison, aka Amado Guerrero. Miclat was a member of the CPP delegation who, with his family, lived and worked in the mansion starting in 1971, he returned to the Philippines in 1986, wracked by disillusionment with the party, which he says was a monster he helped create, yet which destroyed him. He then became an academician with a PhD and is at present dean of the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines.

Miclat's is not a fictional novel, but a personal and political memoir of his nearly two decades or so of involvement with the party, from being its "envoy to the 'leaders'" "underground" house as his office and residence and then as a cadre in the party to call in Beijing. Many of the persons in the book are identified by their real names, others are clearly identifiable, but a few are given fictitious names, probably in order for Miclat to write more freely or to spare those persons from embarrassment.

For instance, "Vero" was one of Sison's key operatives, who supervised the party's youth organization in the underground and who, in the 1970s, the era of student power that led thousands of idealistic teenagers to communism, vanished from and, for many, death to some hospitals the fight. Vero now lives a very comfortable bourgeois life in Canada, even as his Filipino communist colleagues continue to rant against the Philippine government and paint the country black. Here's mysterious "Goldie," who recruited Alidan to the party and who, he claims, ordered the killing of a supposed, but unproven, mole in the party's underground.

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

Likely military agent was Silvino Antonio, head of the party's Organization Department during that period. After being committed for months, Alidan died in 2007 after many years of living under the quarantine and destitute on a meager OF assistant in western's salary.

Secrets' secrets range from the personal to the political. For instance, the book claims that despite the rigors of running a warehouse, Sison had the time to womanize, go on dates to nightclubs, and have an illegitimate daughter. In a scene straight out of a soap opera, Miclat said Sison despite's latter third "Remainder Tonite" (Bernabe Buscayno) were shocked to see Sison's wife present "at the leader's back with her first ever, as she cried about her husband's infidelities."

This might seem trivial today...after all, we had a President who boasted of his womanizing. But womanizing has been a capital offense in the "revolution" for dogmatic and practical reasons; possibly able by death, as a form of "bourgeois decadence." Some have. After witnessing that crippled spat, Sison "tried like a little boy," and because only asked Sison rhetorically: "How many good comrades have we condemned to the bosom of natural opportunists?" I hope Dante will e-mail me to one time or deny if this really happened.

What is no secret at all to those who have read the party's documents, but which Miclat provides more details about, is that the Chinese government provided funds and advice to the CPP in a grand and brazen shape. (A similar account was published in this newspaper on March 23, 2003 by Ricardo Malay, who headed the CPP cell here.) A courier was once arrested in 1976 by the US federal department of investigation for carrying undeclared $75,000 intended for the CPP at the visa coming from China, where she got the funds from the Chinese Embassy there.

As regards intra-alignments, Cong Xue Ping, himself was accustomed to meet his Filipino comrades' intransigence. "No first shipment on the MV Karagatan in 1971 was easily intercepted by the military and most of the 1,200 M16 rifles smuggled were thrown overboard. In 1974, the MV Andres, also bound by the Chinese, didn't even reach Philippine waters as it was captured on a sandbar, which was not unexpected as it was capitulated by a martial-party dissident activist who just put a stash source on marketing.

The most earth-shaking secret in the book involves the 1971 murder of the Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971, the most crucial mass media event that changed the contours of our history since it happened. Miclat asserts with total certitude that it was Sison's plot, and that he learned of the plan days after the bombing. The quotes Sison as saying before the attack: "We will leave Marcos to declare martial law... People will rise up in arms when he finally shows his fascist face." Post-bombing comrades in Beijing knew of the attack before it happened, Miclat says. "Two of Sison's close operatives, as telling him in October 1971: 'We, not Ajuncio did not go to Plaza Miranda on the night of the bombing. Remember Plaza planted bombs."

That it was Sison's project had already been claimed by credible figures, such as former Sen. Jovito Salonga and journalist Gregg Jones in his book "Red Revolution." For Miclat however, the secret seems to have left a deep wound in his heart. Before leaving for China he was friends with the bombing, he says he was asked to keep two grenades, which he was later convinced were the ones used in the carnage.

It is good that Miclat penned his book so as many other people close to him, trained to dedicate it "To an unidentified boy whose life was cut short by a terrorist bomb in Plaza Miranda, August 21, 1971."

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Rolling stone

WHEN I was in college, I believed that dreams could easily be reached from a skyscraper. Back then, my idea of prosperity was to get away from the scorching heat of the sun and the mud of the barrios. Thus full of enthusiasm and hope, I immediately left for Manila after receiving my precious college diploma. I left my sleepy hometown of Jaimes, fabulous and respectable children to look for the proverbial green, or pastures elsewhere.

I took a boat to Manila in May 2007, hoping to land a good-paying job in the big city. I was immediately thrilled and mesmerized by the skyscrapers along Edsa. I marveled at the classy and sexy women on the bus; arrived at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City and had my first taste of the bitter truth when I saw the employment ads. Most companies were hiring accountants and business graduates. I felt alienated. I had finished sociology in college. I was trained for social science research. It seemed that I had no place in such a skyscraper.

But I saw that several companies were hiring call center agents. One guy had to speak fluent English to be hired. I took my chances and tried to disguise my illiteracy in accented English to pass the oral exams. Luckily I was hired by the human resources personnel who believed in rewarding nerves.

To make that long story short, I worked in a call center. It was quite close to what I was aiming for. I was working seven feet above the ground and a little closer to heaven. I thought that I was on my way to realizing my dreams.

I was wrong. My body could not take the punishment of working the graveyard shift. Several nuts only from customers in the United States were right under their noses. I decided that working in a call center was not my calling and it always was not my ladder to success.

When I learned that one of my college professors needed a research assistant, I immediately expressed interest in the job. She called me and I hired. I resigned from the BPO company in October of the same year.

My freedom, which had only been working for a multinational BPO company, disappeared at my decision to resign. He said I was like a rolling stone which would gather no moss. A job in the city paid higher than employment in the province, he reminded me.

I just shrugged and said that I hated more. I left Manila in July of the same year and was back in our place with the scorching heat and the mud.

As things turned out, my work as a research assistant has given me a sense of purpose and value. My job takes me to places I have not dreamed of going to. Under the best of the sun, I indulge in the fluvial beauty of the snowy caves. I linger from island to island. My job is never boring. It is not monotonous like a day job in the city. It is ever challenging.

My most memorable experience so far happened in a remote barrio up in the mountains of Aurora which we reached only after several hours of hiking. The weather was bad when we arrived in the city. We had to wade through heavy rain and strong winds and climb rocky slopes to get to our destination. When we arrived at the barangay center, people flocked to us. They offered steamed kamote and gabi, and apologized that it was all they could offer.

As we conducted our focus group discussion, the whole barangay was present and listening. We gave them snacks and we always gave some to bring food to the field for our respondents, but some parents kept them in their pockets, saving they were for their kids. Some are very thankful even if what we had was just candies and cheap biscuits.

When we were about to leave, the barangay chairman insisted that meals should accompany us.

After our focus group session, we proceeded through a different path, a direct cut to the national highway. We passed creeks and riverbeds and were greeted by people along the way. These people were farmers, whose simplicity and hospitality will touch the heart of any outsider.

All the research work we have undertaken were project-based. The job is not permanent, nor necessarily. It doesn't pay for my SSS and Philhealth premiums. And there was a time when we had no grant so that I had to go to Manila to look for a temporary job. But when another research project came, I happily turned in my resignation and packed my things.

I can say that with teamwork, I can leaving the adventure of my life. There are no more things I have learned on the job. I have worked with great people. I have met interesting folks. And I learned new ideas. Most of all, I have learned to be persistent and hardworking.

Since 2007, I have been involved in several projects. But I know that some day I have to stop rolling and gather some moss because I am not getting any younger.

Perhaps, my brother was right: I am a rolling stone. I just hope that as I roll, I am helping clear the path towards the development of our nation through research.

Michael Q. Obando, 28, is a research assistant at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

YOUNG BLOOD

Michael Q. Obando

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something set below.—Ed.

10 things that make PH ugly: readers react

I GOT interesting e-mail from readers, both Filipinos and non-Filipinos from here and abroad, all of them male, who reacted to last week's column piece, "10 things that make PH ugly." One thing I've learned is that if you write about a list, you are likely going to be swamped with items to add to it.

Last week's column was a reaction to the Department of Tourism's (DOT) much-lambasted campaign come-on, "Pilipinas, kay ganda!" (Philippines, how beautiful!). I also listed 10 things that I thought made beautiful Philippines not so "kay ganda."

Still, we other (gen. First I must say that the collar in chief praised one of the letters—a touching one, really—for publication. It came from Ben Diamond, an executive with Procter & Gamble, covering here for the last two years. So I am not sharing his letter here. But thank you, Mr. Diamond, for seeing so much goodness and beauty in this country. You're not, you really love us!

From Anju dela Cruz in Beijing: "... (At the time, I read your article) I had just finished living abroad (for some things (up 10 flaws (ugly) in the PH, so really my top 10 "flaws). In less than five minutes I was able to come up with my top of the mind list. I am an expatriate working for a multinational FMCG company, previously based in Switzerland and now posted in Beijing. Things I would dislike about my new home (roads and it is inevitable that they ask about PH. I often advise them, 'Don't stay long in Manila and head immediately to the beaches & lands' in the end most would go to Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia if they want to have a beautiful island experience. Not that I am trying to convince them otherwise do they start considering PH. And they say it's not only because of the spate of bad news; but also because they hear very little positive 'touristy' information and advertisements about us. Sad."

Delia Cruz's top 10 hour airport (roads and customs), security, traffic, poor public transport, billboards of politicos, floods, corruption, garbage, tolerance, the top 10 worst beaches, diving, swimming with whale sharks, Philippine mangoes, shopping, entertainment, English, island hopping, Spanish/ greetings (starting with hermanos/os), the weather (lots of rain), cockfight.

From Dave Bender: "I am a Brit married to a Filipina, and a permanent resident in beautiful Cebu province... I have worked overseas in excess of 40 years around Europe, Asia, the Middle East, India, North and South America, the Arctic Circle and the Far East. Many countries have appealed to me as places to live and retire to, the UAE and Bahrain, wonderful and safe places with friendly people... but I was introduced to the Philippines back in 2003 although I had worked with Filipinos for many years overseas, it was LOVE at first sight (the country, that is!) and that love has not diminished or faded since despite having lost money in a failed business. The reasons I love the Philippines? The people!!!! I have met so few friends here that are not

Bar exams twice a year, why not?

THE SUPREME en banc decision [illegible] the proposal to conduct the bar exams twice a year on two successive days—on the first Sundays and Mondays of July and December every year. The two-day bar exams is patterned after the bar exams in the United States, where most states administer the essay portion (multiple essay examinations or MEE) and the multiple choice portion (multistate bar exams or MBE) on the last Tuesdays and Wednesdays of February and July of every year. Consider, too, that the Philippines' current exams for other professions like medicine, engineering, accounting and nursing are held twice a year, or even more, in [illegible] cities, Baguio and Mindanao. There is no reason, therefore, why the same cannot be done with the bar exams.

The above proposal may seem too drastic and radical considering that the present system has been in place since 1901 or for more than a century. But precisely because of this, reform has become an imperative, more so because of modern technological advances.

The two-day exams schedule may be too hectic, but that could also be a test of the bar examinees under pressure which all practicing lawyers are exposed to handle well. Supreme Court Justice Roberto Abad, chairman of the 2011 bar examiners, is thinking of topical bar: the bar examinees write only on their subject or review center. This practice is patterned after that of the University of Wisconsin law school, where graduating students submit to prepare law students taking the bar exams.

Also, the Supreme Court, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police and all other law enforcement agencies should see to it that only bar examinees are allowed inside a premises of about 1,000 meters around the examination centers and that the latter should be secured and all items or functions groups, [illegible] etc.

Lastly, it is suggested that the Supreme Court exempt from the bar exams the top 20 percent of the law graduates from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila or possibly San Beda College who got high passing grades in previous exams, provided that they are enrolled at having done so by their last years and having. They must also successfully pass a right and thorough written and oral exams conducted by the law school or review center. This practice is patterned after that of the University of Wisconsin law school, where graduating students submit to prepare law students taking the bar exams.

—SOLOMON SAS,
Magkalla, Cebu

Another and older 'Maguindanao massacre'

THE MAGUINDANAO massacre, described as the "most notorious, heinous, horrific political killings in Philippine history," was 1 year old on Nov. 23.

The appalling slaughter of the child is unacceptable in that day's incident is unbelievable, and the cries heard for the Maguindanao massacre victims" and "has never delayed it justice denied" ring true.

But there is another Maguindanao massacre just as atrocious, heinous and horrific, which is more than three score old now and also calls for speedy justice. This is the electoral massacre of the votes of the people of Maguindanao in the last 2007 senatorial elections, declared then "well-won."

In the protest before the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), it was proven that senatorial candidate Koko Pimentel was cheated of over 250,000 votes and this cheating benefited Juan Miguel Zubiri.

In his counter protest, Zubiri was not able to muster the necessary proof to warrant further recount, but the majority members of the SET, composed of Justices colleagues in the so-called "Magdalo" wing, "I" allowed Zubiri to claim additional 52,000 ballot boxes. Senior Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chairman of the SET, said it would take "more than six (6) years to open all the boxes." By that time, the term in the Senate shall have been over and Zubiri shall have enjoyed all the perks and privileges of an elective position once which he was not elected, leaving Pimentel a victim of gross injustice.

We believe that the Aquino administration will not permit this to happen. Let there be speedy justice for Pimentel. Time is running out.

Our student Zubiri's "Magnificence 7" in the SET to rise above the level of being "stupid" and redeem themselves to end measure of greatness by resolving speedy justice to Pimentel, that is, if they do not want to inhibit themselves.

—DR. ESTELLA GARCIA,
JR. Juan St.,
Congressional Village
Quezon City

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How Meralco's net income surged 80%

THE BOTTOM to Alfredo Ramos's letter entitled "ERC stand to show which is better, PBB or RORB?" (Inquirer, 11/24/2010)

Let us measure the Performance Based Regulation (PBR) against non related ballistic profile of Meralco and the rates captive consumers pay for.

Under the Return on Rate Base (RORB) rate setting methodology Meralco's distribution charge was P0.7937 per kWh. In June 2003, under new unbundling this went up to P0.8602 per kWh. In the meantime first and second regulatory period under PBR, the same charge for the same service went up to P1.1227 per kWh in May 2009 then P1.4017 in May 2010, or an increase of P0.5690 per kWh.

In the third regulatory period now in force proposed by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), this will go up to P1.6464 per kWh in 2011 and P1.9006 by 2013. Bear in mind from annual sales of 36 billion kWh, one centavo is P360 million.

From P0.408 in 94, P1.79 per kWh, the increase does doubled today under PBR and will treble by 2013.

The treasurer reported last Oct. 21 "Meralco rm P9.2B as of Sept." This is an 80 percent surge in "core net income."

It's the same story. Betty Siy-Yap said consumer base increased 5 percent and energy sales grew 11 percent, so where could the 80 percent surge in income have come from, considering that the "core income" of Meralco can only come from its distribution charges to its captive customers. Meralco's counterpart in another publication provides the answer "depreciation rate adjustments approved by ERC, which in turn boosted consolidated energy revenues."

The surge in income did not come from efficiency or market growth but from rate increase!

The law on which PBR is based contains that the rate-setting methodology should result in a just and reasonable return to investors and consumers. However, not a mere aim be based on a just rate to captive customers.

Is an 80 percent surge in income reasonable, and is the tripling of rates just? The ERC will never be able to claim in any strength that rates in the captive customers of Meralco must take measures into their hands.

By the way, PBR has effectively reversed a Supreme Court decision disallowing the charging of Meralco's customers income tax to the Justice Reynato Puno, in that landmark ruling, denied with Realty Meralco's "endless nonce" to let us for their asset.

In an issue paper on PBR, however, ERC said "If income tax was not considered a recoverable cost, an equitable revenue adjustment would be given to the surge—ERC would be achieved by allowing a corresponding penalty regulatory WACC [weighted average cost of capital] to be included in the assessment." This was after ERC realized that openly including income tax as a recoverable would heavily go against the Court ruling, that they tacked the limit away in WACC, but with the same devastating impact on captive customers.

We hope Congress does up to its oversight functions and asks ERC and the utilities to account for all these mischief.

—MANUEL JUNIA,
pbb.measure@gmail.com

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need a job?

Corpses 'beyond recognition,' court told

From page A1

He said the corpses were "beyond recognition because of the number of wounds inflicted on them."

Khadaffy Mangudadatu, an assemblyman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, testified for the prosecution in the investigation of the Maguindanao massacre when yesterday at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

He was called to the stand to tell what he knew about the days leading to the massacre, particularly his family's plan to file the certificate of candidacy (CoC) for Maguindanao governor of his brother Esmael, then the vice mayor of Buluan.

Esmael Mangudadatu eventually won the governorship. But in filing his candidacy, he directly challenged the ruling Ampatuan clan that was building its patriarch's namesake, Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., for the post.

Ampatuan Jr. and 196 others are now charged with the murder of 57 people, including at least 30 media workers, in what is believed to be the worst incidence of election violence in Philippine history.

7 media workers named

Media practitioners in Mindanao who were initially part of the Maguindadatu convoy will be asked to identify their slain colleagues in court, private prosecutor Harry Roque Jr. said. Roque said the testimony of Maguindadatu Maguindadato was "very important" because he had managed to name seven of the reporters killed.

"But for those who were not identified, we will have to ask their fellow journalists to testify in court and say that this or that victim was in the convoy," he said.

Roque said the assemblyman was supposed to identify all 30 media workers killed, but of his 13 clients, only seven were named.

"This is very important because the identities of the victims must be established in court," Roque said.

Defense lawyers told Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes that they would not cross-examine the assemblyman's testimony.

Earlier in the day, lawyer Putri Beal requested the court to recall Jimp. Bet Mangudadatu and PDI Raimee Hua to the stand and cross-examine them on behalf of his client Ismucar Ampatuan.

Both officers were questioned as part of the prosecution's request for them to be discharged the list of accused and serve as state witnesses.

Highest respect

Khadaffy Mangudadatu testified that his family planned to have some of its women file his brother's CoC in Buluan. Again, where the Commission on Elections office had been transferred from Cotabato.

He recalled the events thus:

The Mangudadatus had received information that the Ampatuans were pulling out all the stops to prevent Esmael from filing his CoC.

On Nov. 23, Khadaffy visited his mother in Davao Doctors' Hospital with his sister-in-law Eraida and sister Rahni. It was agreed there that the women of the family, including his wife Zilhan, would go in a convoy on Nov. 23 to file the CoC.

The agreement was based primarily on the fact that women are accorded the "highest respect" to others, and therefore no harm is expected to befall the Mangudadatu women in their mission.

Earlier, Khadaffy met with media workers and told his brother was to file the COC on Nov. 23.

On the agreed filing date, media workers went to Esmael's house. They were met by Khadaffy, who are breakfast with them.

A reporter asked about the security arrangements, and Khadaffy said the military had not provided security.

The reporter said he received a text message saying that heavily armed men had set up "blockades" on the highway.

Eraida wondered theory Ampatuan, Andy Boobon and Bong Bebiando said the group was only going to file the documents, and would "not cause trouble."

"Soldiers even said they could do a quick photo op before leaving," the witness said.

An hour later

Khadaffy Mangudadatu said that at the last minute, he did not allow his wife Zilhan to join the convoy.

He said Genalin, his brother's wife, assigned Zilhan to take charge of the house. He recalled that Zilhan was to "make sure" that white table cloths were put on the tables and to be ready in case a press conference would be called.

About an hour after the convoy left Esmael's house, Khadaffy proceeded to their grandfather's house in Buluan

ANDAL Ampatuan Jr.

for coffee.

Esmael must arrived there and told him that "Unsay (Ampatuan Jr.) had taken Genalin and shipped her."

"We decided not to stay and we went to dial it," a local radio station in the town, the witness said. The idea was to inform the public what had happened to their kin, he said.

It was about "lunchtime" when the call was issued, Khadaffy said.

He said that when he and his family left the station, they saw that their supporters had scattered.

"News had spread quickly" he said, adding that they first decided to go back to Esmael's house for "safety."

Supporters from some at dozens to the compound, some of them rumbling and pouring, Khadaffy said. He said he attended to their needs.

He said text messages were circulating, saying "Everyone (in the convoy) got caught, including the media ... Unsay got to them, even the vehicles."

Continuing his testimony, Khadaffy said another relative was none that a shopper dispatched to search for the convoy had found it in Inic-Matalay.

"We returned to the mosque to pray," he said, adding that he granted interviews with the media in the evening.

3 p.m. confirmation

The next day at around 3 p.m., Khadaffy got confirmation of the deaths of their kin and the media workers.

He said he and Esmael proceeded to Tacurong City where the bodies were to be taken.

As they surrounded the bodies at a funeral home in Bladel, where they were, after mooring in Tacurong, Khadaffy noticed "fatigues" and bullet wounds in Genalin's private parts.

The other bodies likewise had gunshot wounds, he said. NOE-ACLAN report from Philip C. Tubeo

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 2, 2010
1st Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 26:1-6
Gospel: Mt 7:21, 24-27

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord! Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father.

"So, then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly, is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house; it collapsed, and what a terrible fall that was!"

Commentary:

"Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven but only those who do what my father in heaven wants them to do." (It is certain to be religious.

All our readers do is to keep the rules of the institution.

The question remains, however, whether we are really truly enough to also keep the Laws of God and their call to justice and mercy, to equality and peace.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

Celtics strike back behind Rondo

CLEVELAND—Rajon Rondo scored a season-high 33 points to lead the Boston Celtics to their fourth straight win, a 106-87 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA on Tuesday.

Rondo, who also had 12 assists, missed his first three shots before hitting 11 of his next 14 to help the Celtics build a 20-point lead in the fourth.

Glen Davis added 17 points and Kevin Garnett grabbed 10 rebounds as Boston avenged an early-season loss to Cleveland.

Anderson Varejao and Daniel Gibson scored 16 apiece for the Cavaliers, who will next face the Miami Heat in LeBron James' first trip back to Cleveland since announcing this summer he would sign with Miami.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 18 of his season-high 26 points in the fourth quarter as the Grizzlies handed the Los Angeles Lakers their third straight loss, 99-96.

It's just the second three-game skid for the Lakers since they traded with Memphis for Pau Gasol to team him up with Kobe Bryant in February 2008, and the team's first since March.

The Grizzlies were here even less outright at home and face of five-overall.

Bryant finished with a game-high 29 points, but was 9-of-20 from the floor, including 3-of-8 from 3-point range. Gasol had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

In New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 33 points as the Knicks broke open a close game in the second half to defeat the New Jersey Nets, 111-100.

Wilson Chandler added 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who won for the second time in eight games and improved to 10-9. Raymond Felton finished with 21 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds.

New Jersey point guard Devin Harris injured his left knee on Chandler's basket that broke a 65-all tie midway through the third quarter, part of a 14-2 spurt that gave the Knicks a 16-point lead.

Brook Lopez scored a season-high 36 points and Jordan Farmar had 17 for the Nets.

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis scored 20 points and Michael Pietrus added 13 in lift the Magic over the struggling Detroit Pistons, 99-79.

Vince Carter also scored 12 points in a win **against a Detroit franchise that has owned Dr. Inside's misfortunes for years.**

The Magic have now won seven of their past eight games.

In Philadelphia, Elton Brand scored 16 points and Jrue Holiday and Andres Nocioni added 15 each as the 76ers beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 86-79.

Philadelphia trailed 72-70 midway through the fourth quarter before going on a 15-4 run that put the game away with 1:30 left. AP

RAJON Rondo of the Boston Celtics takes a shot against Cleveland forward Anderson Varejao. AP

ASIAD WINNERS

President invited to present incentives

By Jane Nevarez

NO LESS than President Aquino has been invited to hand out the cash incentives of medalists in the recent Guangzhou Asian Games tomorrow at the Bacnotan Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

A total of P8.5 million is expected to be released by the Philippine Sweepstakes and Gaming Corp. as bonus to the medal winners (three golds, four silvers and nine bronzes) and their coaches.

Silver Riners of bowling, cue artist Dennis Orcollo and boxer Rey Saludar earned P1,000,000 each for their golden performances as provided by Republic Act No. 9064 or the Sports Incentives Act.

Silver medalist Warren Kiamco (billiards), Miguel Tabuena (golf) and Josie Gabuco (women's boxing) will receive P500,000 each, while Grandmaster Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Wesley So, John Paul Gomez and Darwin Layle stand to get P300,000 each for finishing second as a team in men's chess.

Bowler Frederick Ong, wushu's Mark Ichiro, Wenxia Salvador III of boxing and taekwondo jins Shinsuke Uy, John Brad Lizardo, Chad Romero and Winnie Elaine Alora will pocket P100,000 for winning the bronze.

The dancesport duo of Charles Laguras and Bonnie Steve Stegars will also receive P100,000 each for placing third in the latin-cha-cha-cha and pasa-doble events.

A source said Mr. Aquino is expected to hand out the checks after hearing Mass with the winning athletes next week.

Stated on the document obtained by the Inquirer, boxing coach Rod Velasco could get as much as P800,000 from the monies of Mhaicon and the Saludar brothers.

Patrimonio, two others reach quarterfinals

THE PHILIPPINES' ace two girls—led by top seed Anne Clarice Patrimonio—send one boy to the quarterfinals of the Pharma International Juniors tennis championship week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday.

Already the lone Filipino to have claimed themselves after last week's dismal performances where only one campaigner managed to slip into the quarters.

Patrimonio eliminated Iwaya Oonuma of Okinawa, 6-0, 6-2, redeeming some lost yields after the daughter of former PBA superstar Alvin Patrimonio suffered a second round defeat in week 1 of the two-leg tournament.

Seventh seed Jennifer Nguyen went down Aeris Marnie of Australia, 7-5 (7-4), 6-2, in also advance and improve on her second round after last week.

Unfortunately the Filipino who made it past the quarters last year, Manuel Rocha, didn't make it yesterday as she fell to third seed Qiu Siyu of China, 6-4, 6-3.

Nguyen, 15, will face second seed Saeka Ota of Japan, who ousted Filipina Jasmine Ho, 6-0, 6-1.

Patrimonio will battle dangerous Thai Tanaporn Thongpeng, who felled Indonesian Bona Karina, 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

One of the boys also made a breakthrough yesterday as wild card Antonio Eminio Mendoza fought into the quarterfinals with a stunning 6-3, 6-1 upset of second seed Aditya Hadisi of Indonesia.

Mendoza didn't see action last week but his victory already sent shock waves all over the tournament.

Suzuki Cup: Underdog PH booters tackle Singapore today

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINES faces an in-form Singapore side today at the start of Group B humdinger in the AFF Suzuki Cup at the My Dinh National Stadium in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Kickoff is at 5 p.m. (6 p.m. in Manila) with the Filipinos seeking their first victory over the three-time champion Singaporeans in the eight-nation tournament.

Needing to advance via a qualifying tournament in Laos, the Philippines is considered the weakest team in its group that also includes Vietnam and Myanmar.

But team manager Dan Palami and skipper Aly Borromeo said the squad is relishing the underdog tag.

"Our team is capable of pulling off a surprise," Palami said. "We know Singapore is a very strong team, but our team has also shown great character in our previous games even though we were trailing. We never give up."

"Some of the other countries are expecting anything from us," Borromeo said. "We always play better when we're underdogs and we're in high spirits now as that has to be a good combination."

The Filipinos will play Myanmar on Dec. 5, before wrapping up its campaign against Vietnamese three days later.

Coach Simon McMenemy said a draw with Singapore will already be an ideal result for the PH booters, who were bolstered by the return of Fulham keeper Neil Etheridge and several Azkals for Bob Gier.

Etheridge and Gier were among those who did not play in the 0-8 loss to Thai League side Sukhot Pathum last Saturday.

"I'm expecting three very, very tough games where we're the underdogs in every match," said McMenemy. "Being here is already an achievement but we're already not satisfied with that."

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Patriots down to single import

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THE ARANETA PHILIPPINE Patriots yesterday again took the risk of playing with one import in their second game where it inched Donald Little, who underperformed in the Patriots' 81-96 loss to the Pampanga 61 Olongapo last Sunday.

Team manager Edrick Avejuela said the team is looking for a young and dependable rotator to replace Little, who played as hometown import early in the series with Anthony Johnson sidelined by an injury.

The Patriots will play with only one import in Rudrick Wright, Johnson's replacement, when they face Hi-Cola in Manila 100 Store in Julian-recon Saturday.

Sources said Little had an attitude problem and even engaged teammates in unnecessary shoving matches during practices.

The 6-foot-11 Little had just six points in the first half, showing little energy as he gave up several rebounds, before finishing with 16 points and 11 rebounds in 36 minutes against the Dragons.

The loss dropped the Patriots, crowned by Allein Maliksi and Tony Boy Cabangbang, to second place with six wins and three losses.

The Patriots have lost three of their last four games.

Meanwhile, the Dragons have been fined P5,000 after one of their fans threw a bottle at Patriots player Warren Tiamzon during Sunday's game.

OLYMPIANS Anabelle Medina, Samantha Hale, Kenya Zotel, Catherine Isham, Joan Miguel Tayag and Fernando Aliva Zonnet at the aquabike are in Spain's in the Super 8 Week event to the 3rd Arenya Cove International Triathlon held recently at the iconic Arenya Cove Beach and Harbor Club in Barcelo, Levy Aug. 21-29, 2010 capped the men's triathlon and biathlon. Starting at 2:29 p.m. and the women's trio.

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Francisco targets Cazares next

By Dennis U. Erlo, Inquirer Lilo's

BANGKOK—Brian Francisco's fists delivered the knockout that the home hopes will see him up for a title fight—while proving that nothing serious befell his fallen foe.

Francisco turned favored Thai fighter Duangsrisuk Kokiegym into a punishing bag en route to a stunning 11th round knockout that gave the Filipino the WBA interim super flyweight title.

Up next for "The Golden Fist" is a possible showdown against WBA king Hugo "El Inevitable" Cazares.

"I told myself that either I'll knock him out or I'll go down fighting," said the prized fighter from Tanch Gloves Boxing Gym, who clinched his Thai opponent with three smoking gunshots in the face, including a killer uppercut.

"This is not just a victory for myself, but a win for the Philippines," said Francisco. "I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the prayers."

Francisco improved his unblemished record to 20 wins, including 16 KOs. He was, however, concerned about his foe.

The professionals: That ceased, including top politicians and business leaders, watched in disbelief as Kokiegym, eyes closed, laid on the floor for several minutes unable to move. Following the advice of the ring doctor, the fallen Thai pug was laid in a stretcher and whisked to a nearby hospital.

"I feel sorry for him. Before the bout, our team prayed that nobody gets injured. I wish Duangsrisuk well," said Francisco, who received a congratulatory call from Vice President Jejomar Binay. Team Francisco, headed by Binay by the Bell Promotions promoter Rose Ancran, will pay a courtesy visit to Binay on Dec. 3.

"That prisoner Kokiegym has already conceded his intention to offer Brian a rare fight. But we are going to study all our options," said Ancran. "We want to savor this victory first."

Both fighters risked it up right at the opening bell on top of a makeshift ring inside an open football field arena at the Bangkok School to the delight of a predominantly Thai crowd which roared in approval whenever Kokiegym tagged Francisco with body shots.

But, Francisco showed the fear with his ring savvy, using stinging upper cuts and combinations.

DUMPSTER? Kokiegym is stranded by by ringside officials after getting knocked out cold by Brian Francisco (inset).

Solar TV giving up PBA coverage

By Ronnie Nathaniel

SOLAR SPORTS is looking for a TV network that is willing to take over coverage of the PBA games in the next two conferences of the season, the All-Filipino Conference and the Commissioner's Cup.

Solar Sports executives headed by CEO Peter Castillejo are expected to hold discussions with ABS-CBN on Thursday followed by meetings with GMA 7 and 5 and 5.

However, the Lopez network, which currently telecasts the UAAP and NCAA games, is unlikely to enter into any agreement to assume the coverage for the remaining two PBA conferences unless Solar also turns over its unlimited rights at the end of the current franchise to ABS-CBN.

The Lopez network is unlikely to accept a takeover unless the PBA board of governors guarantees ABS-CBN a longer term contract which would make an investment in the pro league coverage viable and worthwhile.

Commissioner Chito Salud said "no formal notice has been received by the PBA office regarding this matter," adding "that is why even the primary concern of the board is to make sure that the PBA games will continue to be aired for the viewers of the country."

The franchise fee for the 2010-11 season amounts to P170 million.

'Bakbakan' champ known Saturday

THE RECORD-BREAKING "TOUR National Bakbakan 10-Ring Derby," will finally have its grand championship on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Organized by the National Federation of Bombilled Breeders (NFBB), the 2010 edition has generated 1,500 entries, according to NFBB president Mary Palmares Jr.

Forty participants with six points and 30 others with 5.5 markers will bid for the title on Saturday.

Competition on Saturday will feature 160 fights and will start at 11 a.m.

But before the grand showdown, other semifinal series will crown runners-up prizes today at the Big Dome. Fights are also lined up tomorrow at Ilocos Cockpit.

NFBB executive director Ameri Ammoun attributed the overwhelming turnout of entries to the Fair Game system.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE
At San Lazaro LP

Race 1—(7)—Lyons Lane (1), Dynamo Lion (2), Lucky Lichia (3)

Race 2—(3)—Charmy Sash (1), Sweeping Lichia (2), Yellow Cat (3)

Race 3—(5)—Thunder Bird (4), Blazeondo (6), Perfect Love (2)

Race 4—(10)—London Boy (4), Lithuania (6), Never Mischief (3)

Race 5—(6)—Kingdom (2)

Race 6—(7)—Allured (3), Big Bang Bang (5), Tinga (4)

Race 7—(2)(7)—Blazer (1), Sweet Embrace (4), Wedding Day (3), Sunkissed (2)

Race 8—(7)(8)(11)—Getting Better (5), Right and Dearman (4), Sunrise Sanctuary (6), Our Boy (1), Wild Lane (3)

Ateneo, Adamson begin Champs' League title tiff

By Cedelf F. Tupas

ATENEO IS looking to add another crown to a season replete of achievements. Adamson is just bent on ending a long wait for a title.

The Falcons hope to sustain their mighty form against the Eagles as they begin their best-of-three title duel for the Philippine Collegiate Champions League crown today at the Siroy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

"Ateneo is a very strong team, but we're hungry to win a title," said Adamson's coach Leo Austria, whose team didn't even qualify for the Final Four 15 last season when Ateneo ruled the tournament.

The Falcons have been the surprise package in the tournament that gobbled the lone collegiate crown in the country emerging unscathed from a three-day included NCAA champion Jiro Reda, NCAA losing finalist Jun Bermisino, UAAP runner-up Pat Fanson U and UAAP fourth player La Salle.

The Falcons ousted Jun Sebastian to the Sweet 16, before eliminating the Tamaraws, 75-57, in the quarterfinals. Adamson also booted out a high-alive six-contending conquest of erstwhile unbeaten foe Reda.

KIRK Long hopes to soar for Ateneo.

The 43-39 reasoning of the Archers last Tuesday has given Austria reasons to believe that his team is already dipping right up a winner, after a long hiatus spell.

"We have gained confidence from every game," said Austria.

The Falcons are also looking to avenge their Final Four defeat to the Eagles, who eventually bagged their third straight crown.

Despite its sputtering offense, Ateneo has played well enough to get this far in the competition.

"We've been winning because of our defense because we're a little out of sync on offense," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "Hopefully, we are able to find our own defense to get our rhythm on offense."

The Eagles overcame University of Cebu, 74-54, in the semifinals, despite the presence of 6-foot-10 Jane Blue Fajardo.

Ateneo's previous wins against Mapua to the quarterfinals and Lyceum in the Sweet 16 were far from convincing, but Black said he is not taking it against his team.

"We've played some very good teams," he said. "Right now, we are not in UAAP shape. The goal is to win the tournament."

Look what television skipped again

BARE EYE

Alexis Trinidad

* * *

Maybe a simpler audio feed from ringside would've sufficed?

It could've been easily arranged, explained my son Chino, who had gone on short early Sunday morning for any boxing bit from Bangkok.

He ribbered with his cable television channel boss, trying to get Channel 7, the military station of Thailand that regularly carried world title fights involving Thai fighters.

No luck.

* * *

The fight was set around 4 p.m. in an open football field.

Naturally, Francisco was expected to lose before a hostile, humid crowd.

There was also the usual fear of the don-hawked La Salle squad still on a high after its astounding conquest of erstwhile unbeaten foe Reda.

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"We've played some very good teams," he said. "Right now, we are not in UAAP shape. The goal is to win the tournament."

Anyway, from sketchy feeds, it appeared that Francisco, now 21-0-1, including 17 KOs, had to endure a supreme test in his first international outing.

He was repeatedly hauled, penalized, chastised by a lynching, by his determined opponent.

The thing is he survived and was worthy-looking.

But what also surfaced were the near edges, mainly the awkward strategy after being caught in reverse.

Deadly Dilan definitely has the championship artillery anchored on his explosive fists.

This is wishful thinking, but don't you think Manny Pacquiao would've readily sent him to Freddie Roach if that Monday bout had been shelved back here at home?

Let's hope the Pacmen takes time out to search and size up Francisco when Solar Sports replays the PBA interim super flyweight championship anytime soon.

ICTSI PRO MANAGER Marlowe Sarmiento (left) hands over to Joy Bayron the U-Boat watch and the replica of the check worth P50,000.

New dad Bayron finally nails big one

JOY BAYRON ended a three-year wait for a major accomplishment when he bagged Player of the Year honors in the ICTSI-Philippine Golf Tour with a Road leg victory at Canlubang recently.

The victory capped the 31-year-old Bayron's superb season where he turned in four runner-up finishes before bumbling a star-studded field, including Frankie Miñoza, Jonic Hipocrate and Dutch Dodo fine for title to finally capture a victory in the circuit formulated in Cebu last August.

Still, it took him one more victory—at the ICTSI Canlubang Invitational—to dislodge Hipocrate from the top of the heap and snatch the Order of Merit crown.

"It was a dream come true, knowing the year's top player," said Bayron, adding he gained inspiration from the birth of his first child nearly to the year.

"I really played inspired all season since my son named for three years for our first child," added Bayron, who won a bonus prize of P50,000 for winning the OOM crown plus a 11 boat watch worth P1,20,000.

The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite was also named the circuit's top course with former Hong Kong Asia champion Dante Bedeña winning the top international honors and an iPad Touch 4G.

Bayron hit the P1 million mark at the close of the 15-stage circuit spon-

sored by International Container Terminal Services, Inc., finishing with P1,170,217 and beating Pagsanjan, a two-leg winner who wound up P945,812.

Nemesio Matabuena ended up third with P787,810 followed by three-leg winner Marvin Bonnevier (P771,571), ICTSI-Forest Hills champion Mike Hosoy (P668,017), Tony Lascuña (P635,864), ICTSI-Mahayahay winner Glenn Salvador (P614,884), Orchard leg champion Sergio Magsalin (P557,306), Pembo Series (P495,669) and 2nd Monte leg winner Carlos Cano (P495,000).

"I'll try to stay in shape in the off-season and go for it again next year," said Bayron.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Lifamiay

Fires light up December morn in 3 areas

By Nikko Calleja and Kristine Felmar Marguinay

THREE FIRES broke out in separate areas in Metro Manila yesterday.

Fortunately, no injuries or deaths were reported although millions of pesos worth of property was destroyed.

The first fire was reported at 5:50 a.m. in a house in Kamias, Quezon City.

SFO2 Jose Monreto said the family occupying the house at 189 K-6 Street managed to get out safely.

He added that the fire was put out in less than 30 minutes and that fire probers were still trying to determine what had caused it.

4 houses destroyed

In Marikina City, an hour-long fire destroyed four houses, according to a fire official.

The blaze started in an old bungalow at the corner of Dama Dalisi Street and Bayan-Bayanan Avenue in Barangay Concepcion at 10:34 a.m.

A 17-year-old special child who had been left by himself managed to get out of the house before the fire spread to three other nearby structures, SPO4 Eugene Cura of the city's Bureau of Fire said.

The fire was put out at 12:42 a.m. with its cause still under investigation, he added.

The case of damage to property was placed at around P1 million, according to SPO4 Noel Marcos.

Shortly before noon, another blaze broke out, this time in Caloocan City.

Caloocan fire marshal Raul Jeremy Diaz said the fire started at around 11:38 p.m. in the attic of Robert Lao, the owners of an electronics warehouse, Number 2080, on 10th Avenue.

Firemen hampered

It took five officials more than two hours to put out the fire because they found it difficult to get inside the area due to the surrounding narrow alleys.

Diaz said a wall of the warehouse had to be torn down so that firemen could train their hoses directly on the flames.

The fire was placed under control at around 2:30 p.m.

The damage to property was placed at around P2 million.

Initial investigation showed that the fire may have been caused by faulty electrical wiring.

With Jhaney C. Gavilan

TREE OF LIGHTS A tree decorated in Christmas lights on Roxas Boulevard, Manila. ANGELA LACSON

Parañaque City treasurer faces graft raps

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE TREASURER of Parañaque City faces charges of graft and corruption and violations of the code of conduct for public servants for failing the Ombudsman to declare her assets, liabilities and net worth and whose values were disproportionate to her income as a government employee.

Based on its investigation, RPS said Octavia bought two properties in Calamba, Laguna—a house and lot with a swimming pool in Silversmith Village, Pansol and a P1.8 million lot in Laguna Hills-Ortigas. She also owned several pieces of land in Makati and Las Piñas, it added.

She was also found to have various vehicles, including a Suzuki Grand Vitara, Suzuki Jimny, Mitsubishi Colt Lancer, a Mitsubishi Pajero and a Yamaha motorbike.

RPS said Octavia used her parents as dummy owners of some of her properties.

The investigation also showed that Octavia frequently traveled abroad. Citing data from the Bureau of Immigration, RPS said Octavia went to Hong Kong, Bangkok and Frankfurt 40 times from 1997 to 2008. Those trips were not supported by authorities to travel abroad, it added.

Octavia receives a salary of only P20,000 a month.

"The further probe into Octavia's lifestyle, assets and properties throughout her tenure has uncovered substantial inconsistencies with facts, wherein her purchase of prime and expensive real properties appeared to be disproportionate to her monthly wage," RPS said.

RPS added that if fraud

MANAGING AN

INNOCENT AT PLAY Joy is reflected in the face of a young boy as he plays at the newly renovated children's playground in Rizal Park in Manila. NONOY LACZA

Traffic rerouting set for marathon

By Julie M. Aurelio

EXPECT HEAVY traffic along roads starting Sunday as the streets leading to the Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC), the venue of the 2nd Quezon City International Marathon.

The city's Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) said it would soon announce the route of the marathon which would feature 5-kilometer, 10-kilometer, 21-kilometer and 42-kilometer runs.

Organizers said traffic in roads leading to QMC would likely be affected, including Commonwealth Avenue, C. P. Garcia Avenue and University Avenue on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

"We are still waiting for the final race route before we map out our traffic management scheme," said DPOS chief Elmo San Diego.

He added that affected roads would be closed to vehicles on Dec. 5, starting at midnight until noon.

The 2nd QC International Marathon will start and end at the QMC.

Mayor Herbert Bautista, meanwhile, has ordered the DPOS to map out a rerouting plan to ensure the orderly flow of traffic along the race route.

The DPOS said it would implement two-way traffic on the southbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue to ease vehicular flow.

Some 400 DPOS traffic personnel would be fielded during the marathon in addition to a traffic management team from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Quezon City Police District.

In a statement, the city government said it would also deputize barangay public security officers to oversee traffic in secondary and inner roads.

Bautista, chair of the marathon's organizing committee, said the event was part of the city's wellness, sports, tourism and health projects.

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Regional Field Unit No. 3
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

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The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 3 (DA RFU 3), San Fernando City, Pampanga, now inviting interested bidders to submit sealed proposals/quotations for the supply & delivery of the above-mentioned project.

Bidding documents are available at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. everyday, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

All bids must be accompanied by sufficient bid security in the form of a Bid Security Declaration, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee/Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank, or Surety Bond callable on demand, in favor of the Implementing Agency, DA-RFU 3, San Fernando City, Pampanga, in the amount of at least two percent (2%) of the ABC.

The DA-RFU 3 reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and assumes no obligation to inform the affected bidder of the grounds for its action.

Bidder may submit their bids on or before 2:00 P.M. of December 15, 2010. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on the same date.

For more details, please call the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at (045) 961-2844 local 116.

ENGR. LORETO B. SANTOS, JR.
Regional Executive Director

Have a Special Merry Christmas at the 10th World Bazaar

Rizal governor wants dike built around lake

By Hiro Cullejo

REAL, GOVERNOR Casimiro Ynares III has pushed for the construction of a road-like dike around Laguna de Bay to place of the dredging project which would cost the government more than P18 billion.

Ynares told the business that the dike, which he described as "just short of a circumferencial road," would help prevent illegal settlers from encroaching on the lake.

It would also prevent flooding in nearby areas since "the road dike [would serve] as a physical barrier to prevent water from coming inland[," he said.

Ynares was one of several officials who had opposed the P18.7-billion lake rehabilitation project signed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with Belgian company Baggerwerken Decloedt en Zoon (BDC).

Big waste of money

According to him, the project would be a big waste of money since it would focus solely on dredging the body of water without solving the other causes of flooding such as illegal settlers.

Last week, Malacañang announced that it was canceling the dredging contract with BDC.

Ynares said the dike project would suit the government around P34 billion based on the estimate of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Permanent solution

"According to [Public Works] Secretary [Rogelio] Singson, the President finds it expensive. But compare it to the dredging project, the government would only have to add around P5 billion to achieve a permanent solution," he added.

He said the project would also include the installation of a sewerage treatment plant underneath the road dike in addition to the planting of trees around the lake.

Woman sells baby to pay off debts

By Kristine Felissa Mangunay

FOR SALE. A six-month-old baby boy for only P2,500.

The police arrested the seller day a 23-year-old woman for selling a baby that had been entrusted to her by a relative.

During questioning, Marilyn Ramos, a resident of Mayamba, Caloocan City, admitted that she sold the child because she desperately needed money to pay off her gambling debts.

Chief Insp. Marcelo Montano, head of the Caloocan City Police Sub-station 2, said that the baby's mother came to them for help after Ramos disappeared along with her six-month-old baby.

She added that she had entrusted the boy to Ramos because she had errands to run and she did not want to leave him in his own in their house in Bahaynonah, Quezon City.

The mother claimed that when she came home, Ramos and her baby were nowhere to be found.

She said that she started to get worried when she found out that Ramos had lost a lot of money in a card game that day.

The police later found out that the baby had been sold to a woman named Ben who said she bought the baby from Ramos for only P2,500 because she had long wanted to have a child.

The baby was later returned to his mother.

Caloocan bans watusi, piccolo

SMALL BUT terrible.

Firecrackers such as the popular "piccolo" and "watusi" have been banned in Caloocan City.

The local government imposed the ban to prevent injuries from firecrackers may inflict on people, especially children, as they celebrate the holiday season.

In a statement, Mayor Enrico "Recto" Echiverri directed the police and other concerned agencies to monitor markets and commercial establishments in the city so that appropriate charges could be filed against those caught selling and distributing the prohibited firecrackers.

The ban also covers other firecrackers like "bawang," and "tatsi," among others. Ariellen Felisse Mongaya

Those greedy eye doctors

ON TARGET
RANNIE TELLO

WHEN SEN. PING Lacson was in the police service, he played rival with other people's lives.

Criminals and even law-abiding citizens trembled at the mention of his name.

People who crossed Lacson, the sen- ator, either disappeared without a trace, got killed under mysterious circumstances, or sought refuge in other countries.

Now the shoe is on the other foot: Ping Lacson is a fugitive from justice.

Well, a P2-million price on his head, some bounty hunters are out to get him dead or alive.

That's how the Law of Karma works.

When then Colonel Lacson had barely warmed his seat as chief of the Cebu metropolitan district command (Metrodistrict) chief, a child of a millionaire businessman was kidnapped.

It was the first time that a kidnapping for ransom happened in the Queen City of the South in its many years.

Lacson and his men whom he brought from Manila were quick to solve the case.

They were experts in solving kidnapping-for-ransom cases.

As in the past, they took no prisoners in the Cebu kidnapping.

People in Cebu were saved.

But looking back, was it too much of a coincidence that the kidnapping took place a few months after he was assigned there?

Was it also too much of a coincidence that the former Alice Hill, whose husband was jailed at the Moroccos forFilgence and Security Group (MEGG), later became Mrs. Alice Lacson?

Alice's husband died when he was run over by a truck after his release from the MEGG jail.

For two years now, I've held four medical missions with my foundation in three places—Northern Samar, Tacloban City and Camarines Sur.

The Ramon Tallo Good Samaritan Foundation has been helped by some doctors and nurses from St. Luke's Medical Center.

The doctors and nurses, who belong to the hospital's Sagip-buhay Foundation, give free medical and surgical services to the poor.

But I cannot understand why eye doctors in Tacloban City and Naga City have refused my foundation and Sagip-buhay's offer to help in treating patients with cataracts and other eye ailments in their areas.

The associations of eye doctors in the two cities would not want us to treat patients with eye ailments for free.

I've been told that to ensure operation, which takes only 30 to 35 minutes, costs a minimum of P30,000, an amount that poor patients can't afford.

Thousands of old people suffer from cataracts, which blur their vision, and I want to contribute my share to helping restore their eyesight.

But Sagipbuhay and my foundation can't do that if eye doctors in places where we conduct medical missions refuse to allow us to treat indigent eye patients.

Apparently, the provincial eye doctors want to corner the "eye market."

And what does that mean? Collective greed.

A revenue district officer (RDO) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) owns a discovery commercial building on Dahlia Avenue in Barangay Park, Quezon City.

The building, worth no less than P150 million, is under the name of a company owned by the BIR officer's family.

Where did he get all that money for the building's construction?

My BIR source says the RDO, in cahoots with a Register of Deeds, was involved in squeezing money from a 91-year-old woman even when she had paid P286 million in real estate tax.

Parañaque City treasurer faces graft raps

From page A11

guilty. Caseta would be dismissed from government service. Moreover, her alleged ill-gotten wealth would be forfeited in favor of the government.

RPS is the unit under the DOF which is in charge of conducting lifestyle checks on officials and employees, mostly from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and Treasury offices of local government units.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the Aquino administration resorted to conducting the crackdown on corruption which is draining government revenues.

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WikiLeaks: US worried over Pakistan nukes

ISLAMABAD—Once secret US diplomatic cables have revealed concerns by Western governments that Islamist militants might get access to Pakistani nuclear material and American skepticism that Islamabad will ever rein in Taliban factions fighting in Afghanistan.

They also detail Islamabad's private doubts over the weak, unpopular civilian government and portray the country's Army chief as an important, behind-the-scenes player who cares talked about ousting President Asif Ali Zardari, who himself is said to have expressed concern the military might "take an axe."

The revelations were published on Tuesday by newspapers working together with whistle-blower WikiLeaks, which obtained more than 250,000 leaked American diplomatic files from missions around the world.

US and Western officials have expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, but to public have generally said they believed it was safe.

In a Feb. 4, 2009, cable, then-US Ambassador Anne Patterson wrote that "our major concern is not having an Islamic militant steal an entire weapon but rather the chance someone working in GOP (Government of Pakistan) facilities could gradually smuggle enough material out to eventually make a weapon," according to The New York Times.

Britain's the Guardian newspaper reported that Russian and British officials shared the same concern.

The newspapers reported that in 2007 Pakistan had agreed "in principle" to an operation to remove highly controlled uranium from a Pakistani nuclear reactor, but it was never carried because of domestic opposition.

Pakistan on Monday refused the operation because its own nuclear security would prevent the material from getting into the wrong hands.

The cables also provide insight into American views on Pakistan's efforts to fight extremism.

The United States is pushing Pakistan to take action against insurgents in the northwest who are behind attacks in Afghanistan. But Islamabad has resisted because it views the groups as potential assets against the influence of archenemy India in Afghanistan once the Americans withdraw.

In one cable, Patterson said she was skeptical that Pakistan would abandon the militants. "There is no chance ... the abandoning support for these groups, which is seen as an important part of its national security apparatus against India," she wrote.

Zardari was elected after the death of his wife, Benazir Bhutto, in a suicide blast in 2008, but he has been hounded by the opposition, the media and the Army, which remains the real power center in the country.

In February this year, Patterson wrote the civilian government "remains weak, ineffectual and corrupt. Economic politics is dominated by reactionary abuse the fate of President Zardari," according to an account in The New York Times. AP

Website blocked in China

BEIJING—Links to the WikiLeaks website were blocked within China on Wednesday amid potentially embarrassing claims made in leaked US diplomatic cables posted to the site.

Attempts to access wikileaks.org and cablegate.wikileaks.org were met with a notice saying the connection had been reset. That's the standard response when a website is being blocked by Chinese authorities who more rigid controls over Internet content.

It wasn't clear when the blocks were imposed, although a visit overall of the Internet is inaccessible behind China's firewall, including social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Human rights and political dissent channel sites are also routinely banned, although netizens in China often can easily jump the so-called "Great Firewall" with proxy servers or other alternatives.

WikiLeaks may have been singled out because of some of the assertions made in the leaked cables, including some over fears that the US threatened Seoul and Beijing focusing on China's ally North Korea.

Those included suggestions that North Korea's communists regime would likely collapse within three years of the death of ruler Kim Jong-Il, and that Chinese leaders were prepared to accept South Korea's eventual role over the entire Korean peninsula. AP

AFTER saving dates among foreign governments, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange boards of another "megabank" that could take down a major bank. REUTERS

Int'l arrest warrant out for WikiLeaks chief

WASHINGTON—Interpol on Wednesday issued a global arrest warrant for the shadowy founder of WikiLeaks as the chaos from its massive dump of secret US cables spread fears over pressures to financial institutions.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, a 39-year-old Australian computer hacker, is wanted in Sweden for questioning over the alleged rape and molestation of two women. Assange has denied the charges.

Interpol, which is based in Lyon, France, said early Wednesday local time that it had alerted all member states to arrest Assange if he is spotted. He spends much of his time in Britain and Sweden.

Assange is said to lead a ripe life. He'd rarely sleeping in the same place twice. Ecuador's left-leaning government initially offered Assange residency, but President Rafael Correa backtracked on "love duty."

In one of a series of defiant media interviews, Assange boasted that he was ready with a fresh "bargaining" that would take down a major bank, leading Bank of America shares to tumble more than 5 percent on Thursday on speculation.

Assange told Forbes magazine that the bank link would "give a true and representative insight into how banks behave at the executive level in a way that will stimulate investigations and reforms, I presume."

In another interview conducted from an undisclosed location, over a Skype Internet phone, Assange told Time magazine that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should resign over a cable that appeared to show the United States ordered diplomats to spy on foreign officials, particularly at the United Nations.

US state department spokesperson Philip Crowley said that Clinton did not think the document and that her name was affixed unnecessarily to many cables out of Washington.

WikiLeaks and US authorities have not fully explained how the 250,000 sensitive cables managed to go public. But suspicion has fallen on Pfc. Bradley Manning, a disgruntled 22-year-old ex-Army intelligence analyst.

The Pentagon has found questions on how it entrusted so much sensitive data at the low-ranking soldier, who was arrested in May after WikiLeaks released a video showing a 2007 US Apache helicopter strike in Baghdad that killed civilian reporters. AFP

US cuts access to files

WASHINGTON—The government scrambled on Tuesday to prevent future spills of US secrets like the unfettering WikiLeaks' disclosures.

The Department of State severed its computer files from the government's classified network, officials said, as US and world leaders tried to clean up from the leak that used America's sensitive documents onto computer screens around the globe.

By temporarily pulling the plug, the United States significantly reduced the number of government employees who can read important diplomatic messages. It was an unusual embarrassing down, prompted by the disclosure of hundreds of thousands of those messages this week by WikiLeaks, the self-styled whistleblower organization.

Almost after overthrowing, the documents disclosed the US state department had asked its diplomats to collect DNA, samples and other personal information about foreign leaders.

Those department spokesperson BJ Crowley sought to reassure the world that US diplomats were not spies, even as he sidestepped questions about why they were asked to provide DNA samples, iris scans, credit card numbers. Engineering and other deeply personal information about leaders of the United Nations and its foreign regimes. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Air war ramped up over Afghanistan

KABUL—Since sharply curtailed because of complaints over civilian casualties, US and Nato forces have ramped up the air war in Afghanistan since the summer. Coalition aircraft dropped 1,000 bombs and missiles in October—one of the highest monthly totals of the 9-year-old war. Despite large increases in written and weapons fired, the number of civilians killed in air operations is slightly down this year—from official say—because of coalition restrictions on engaging insurgents. AP

CT scans best at detecting illegal drugs

CHICAGO—The best method for finding narcotics that smugglers or drug "mules," hide within their bodies is the same CT medical imaging more commonly used to spot cancer, a small study by Swiss researchers suggests. CT scans were far more accurate at detecting smuggled drugs than X-rays. But CT scanning machines and the image processing are expensive, too costly to regularly use to catch smugglers, some experts say. In the study, all 10 CT scans on smugglers accurately detected drugs they had swallowed or stuffed inside bodily cavities. There was only one mistake—one mismuggler was wrongly identified as hiding drugs. AP

Protein intake before exercise or after?

NEW YORK—Eating protein after exercising may help rev up the body's muscle-making machinery, in both young and older men alike, a small study suggests. The study of 10 men—half in their 20s and the other half in their 70s—found that in both age groups, consuming a protein drink after exercise led to a greater increase in muscle protein, compared with consuming the drink after a period of rest. Reuters

Suicide risk increases after heart attack

NEW YORK—People are more likely to commit suicide in the wake of a heart attack—and some are more at risk than others, new study findings report. In the immediate aftermath of a heart attack, the risk of suicide rises dramatically among people with a history of mental illness, the researchers say. Men are about 60 times more likely to commit suicide than people who did not experience either a heart attack or mental illness. Reuters

Survey says science should find aliens

LONDON—Nearly half of Britons believe in aliens, and almost 80 percent say cancer is the disease which most needs a vaccine, a poll by one of the world's oldest scientific institutions showed on Tuesday. Britain's Royal Society found that 48 percent of respondents in a survey to mark its 350th anniversary said that disease control and eradication should be a top priority for science. Reuters

Man, climate erode Cancun's fine beaches

CANCUN, Mexico—Cancun's eroding white sand beaches are providing a note of urgency to the climate talks being held just south at this seaside resort famed for its postcard-perfect views.

Hitting sea levels and a series of unusually powerful hurricane have aggravated the folly of building a coastal destruction step shifting sand dunes on a narrow peninsula. After the big storms hit, the bad close were bad here. Much of Cancun's glittering hotel strip is now without a beach.

Hotels built so small, sea-heavy and too close to the shore, as well as beaches stripped of native vegetation to make them more tourist-friendly, have contributed to the massive erosion.

"It was the chronicle of a disaster foretold," said Leopold Ramos, the former head of Mexico's environmental agency. "Everybody knew this was going to happen. This had been predicted for 40 years."

Cancun's beaches largely disappeared after Category 4 Hurricane "Wilma" hit in 2005, leaving waves lapping against hotel foundations or against roads.

Nine Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have hit Mexico in the past decade, the highest rate in 40 years and equal to all those in the preceding three decades, according to Mexico's National Meteorological Service. Many scientists blame anthropogenic weather patterns on climate change.

The scientists' version was reviewed by a rise in sea level, which has grown at a rate of about 2.2 millimeters a year.

"It doesn't sound like much, but ... in an area as low as this another, it doesn't help, especially when the sandbar doesn't have the properties to compensate for sea level," Ramos said.

In a major restoration project last year, millions of cubic meters of sand were dredged from the sandy bottom of the Caribbean and pumped ashore in Cancun. The project created a 1.5-kilometer stretch of beach some 40 to 70 meters wide, at a cost of about $76 million.

It is already vanishing away. Waves have carved a semi-high shelf into the beach and tourism Tourism Secretary Fierro de la Cruz acknowledges that 4-6 percent of the new sand has been swept away—even without any major storms.

Hitting the second time such an undermining had been tried; a $13-million beach restoration effort in 2006 also washed away, finished off by Category 5 Hurricane "Gene" that hit further down the coast in 2007.

Officials hope such disaster will be the last and the sand will somehow stick.

"The erosion was really caused by Hurricane Wilma rolling over the area, and we just have to hope we don't get another one like that," De la Cruz said.

Tourists and local residents are skeptical.

Hernando Garcia, a 47-year-old opal dealer from Bilbao, Spain, strode up the steep Delfines beach after a swim in the turquoise waters and gazed back to the shelf the waves have carved in the sand.

"In a year or two, another hurricane will come and the same thing will happen all over again," he said. "This is an absurd waste of money." AP

CANCUN'S postcard-perfect beaches have largely disappeared after strong hurricanes hit Mexico the past three decades. AP

Secret robotic space shuttle heads back to Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—A miniature robotic space shuttle launched from Cape Canaveral in April has completed a nine-month classified mission for the military and will be headed for a landing as early as Friday, Air Force officials said on Tuesday.

The vehicle, known as the Orbital Test Vehicle or X-37B, is expected to land at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California between Friday and Monday, depending on weather and technical considerations, the Air Force said in a statement.

The project, started by NASA in the late 1990s and later adopted by the military, is intended as test technologies for a next-generation space shuttle.

The military is looking at the space plane as a way to test new equipment, sensors and material in space, with the intention of incorporating successful technologies into satellites and other operational systems.

The Air Force imposed a news blackout on the X-37B's activities while in orbit, though it was tracked by amateur satellite-watchers throughout its nine-month mission.

The X-37B looks like a space shuttle orbiter, with a similar shape and payload bay for cargo and experiments. Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

A PHOTO released by South Korea's military shows a South Korean Marine base ablaze during North Korea's artillery shelling of Yeonpyeong Island on Nov. 23. AFP/ROK

KOREA CRISIS

China pushes 6-party talks

SEOUL—The United States and South Korea on Wednesday were finishing up war maneuvers aimed at North Korea after a deadly attack and discussing whether to hold more, as China tried to restart the aid-for-nuclear-disarmament talks created by the North.

Beijing is pressing for an emergency meeting to discuss ways to ease tensions embroiling the region after the North Korean artillery attack on a front-line island that killed four South Koreans and wounded 18 others on Nov. 23. But Washington, Tokyo and Seoul are wary of talking with Pyongyang.

Beijing wants talks among the six nations who have negotiated over North Korea's nuclear program—the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the United States.

After walking away from the six-nation talks in April 2009, Pyongyang has shown it is now eager to restart them to gain much-needed fuel oil and aid in exchange for nuclear disarmament.

Seoul has reserved coolly, saying Pyongyang must show real commitment to disarm and noting that its communist rival has gone in the wrong direction with its revelation last month of a new uranium enrichment facility that would give North Korea a second way to make nuclear bombs.

South Korea's drills with the United States involving a nuclear-powered supercarrier in western waters south of the disputed border were set to end on Wednesday. The drills were largely aimed at testing communications systems and didn't have live fire, but North Korea expressed its fury over them.

An official of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said that Seoul and Washington were discussing whether to conduct new joint military drills this month or early next month. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity citing agency rules, would only say that the drills would take place off South Korea's west coast.

South Korea's military separately plans what it calls routine weeklong naval live-fire exercises from 29 sites next week. Similar naval firing drills will follow in coming weeks, but Yeonpyeong Island and other front-line islands have not been immediately targeted as firing sites, the officer said.

Tokyo and Washington have backed Seoul in its cool response to China's proposal for emergency talks, and the three powers arranged to meet in Washington—rather than in Beijing—next week to discuss North Korea in a move that clearly underlined the fault line in the "six party" negotiations.

US officials said Washington was ruling out the six-party talks for the time being.

The United States wants "China to urge North Korea to stop the destabilization," White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs said. AP

NEW YORK: City Mayor Michael Bloomberg turns on the Rockefeller Center's Christmas tree which has 30,000 energy-efficient lights. AP

Thousands watch Xmas tree lighting

NEW YORK— Tens of thousands of people gathered in Rockefeller Center on Tuesday night to watch the lighting of the country's most famous Christmas tree, just days after a terror scare or a tree lighting in Oregon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg helped turn on the 30,000 energy-efficient lights dressing the Christmas tree following a show featuring performances by Jessica Simpson, Sheryl Crow, Josh Groban, Filipino singer Katherine Jenkins and Filipino-born pop star Charice.

The 74-foot Norway spruce, donated by Peter and Stephanie Aziz of Bishopric, New York, will be on view until Jan. 7.

The event took place less than a week after the arrest of a 19-year old Somali-American man charged in an alleged plot to blow up a car bomb at an Oregon Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Portland.

"It kind of crossed my mind but not enough to keep me away," said 44-year-old Lisa Kingston, who was visiting from Canada with her friend and had wanted to see the event in person after many years of watching it on TV.

Her sentiments were echoed by 41-year-old Bonnie Hinton of Lubbock, Texas.

"It's a sign of our religious freedoms and a sign of our freedom to celebrate," Hinton said. "It's what gets my Christmas season off to a start."

Police prepared for the sizable crowd by blocking off streets and urging people to use mass transit instead of cars to get there. AP

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Gov't sets ₱60-B T-bonds swap

Extending debt maturity to 2020, 2035

By Michelle V. Rarra

THE GOVERNMENT said it would swap at least ₱60 billion worth of new, longer-dated treasury bonds with existing debt paper held by investors in a bid to extend the maturity of its obligations.

In the Debt Consolidation Program launched yesterday, the Bureau of the Treasury invited existing bondholders, including pension funds, government financial institutions, state-owned firms and private companies to exchange their bond holdings with freshly issued instruments.

The government is particularly targeting in exchange at least ₱30 billion worth of new bonds maturing in 2020 and at least ₱30 billion worth of fresh bonds maturing in 2035 with bonds that will mature earlier.

National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the exchange program was part of the government's liability management strategy.

He said the government expected some accommodation from the market to the bond exchange program given the confidence in the economy's growth prospects and the government's ability to pay its obligations.

Earlier, Deputy Treasurer Estanislao Mendiola said that while the government has set a minimum of ₱60 billion worth of new bonds for exchange, it was hoping that with the strong investment appetite, as much as ₱160 billion would actually be exchanged.

He said that there were some ₱1.6 trillion worth of government securities held by investors eligible for swapping. Mendiola said the government had a rough target of swapping around 10 percent, or ₱160 billion, of the amount.

He said the bond exchange would create benchmark inter-

GOV'T SE

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Dec. 1, 2010
43.780

STOCK MARKET
Dec. 1, 2010
49.18
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

NOVEMBER DECEMBER

See stock market report on Page B3

Stocks rebound

LOCAL SHARE prices rebounded after six straight days of losses as the market investors picked up cheap stocks.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) regained to 5,002.88 points yesterday after falling below the 4,900-level for the first time in about seven weeks on Tuesday.

The index rose up 1.18 percent or 58.18 points while the broader all-shares index declined 0.38 percent or 11.38 points to 2,966.88.

The rally was led by property shares, which rose 3.01 percent. All other sub-indices were in the green except for the service sector, which fell 1.05 percent.

There were 1.07 billion shares that changed hands for ₱5.86 billion. Among the top gainers was mall operator SM Prime Holdings Inc., climbing 18.8 percent to close at ₱11.05 a share.

There were 82 advancers and 62 decliners while 50 shares were unchanged.

"Wednesday would initially be tagged as a reaction rally—a technical rebound," a local broker said.

"This point is highlighted by the value turnover coming at only half of Tuesday's total," he said, adding that most market players took a breather.

He said the rebound would have gone higher if not for the still-negative news overseas and mixed news on the local economic front, particularly this government's announcements that tax revenues likely fell below target in November. Paolo G. Montecillo

ADB allots $2.25B for solar projects

By Amy R. Remo

THE ASIAN Development Bank targets to increase the amount of solar power generated in the Asia-Pacific region six-fold to 3,000 megawatts by 2012 to help improve energy security within the area.

In a statement, ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda said that Asia-Pacific's high economic growth rate, combining population growth and current and projected energy demand gap provided a huge market opportunity and potential for solar energy development.

"Asian countries will need to aim to maintain economic progress and improve energy security, while simultaneously charting a new low-carbon development path," he explained.

Kuroda urged governments in Asia-Pacific to invest in solar energy to also help ensure that their future growth was environmentally sustainable.

Through its Asia Solar Energy Initiative (ASEI), the ADB assisted identifying earlier this year large-capacity solar projects for potential development.

The ADB hopes to provide $2.25 billion to fund the initiative, which is expected to draw in an additional $6.75 billion to investments from other institutions over the same period.

The ADB would make available a range of projects and knowledge-sharing works.

MDR AL (CPT) RU

Ecozone exports surged 26% in first 10 months

By Abigail L. Ho

EXPORTS generated by locators registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority jumped 25.9 percent to $23.8 billion in the first 10 months from $20.7 billion in the same period last year.

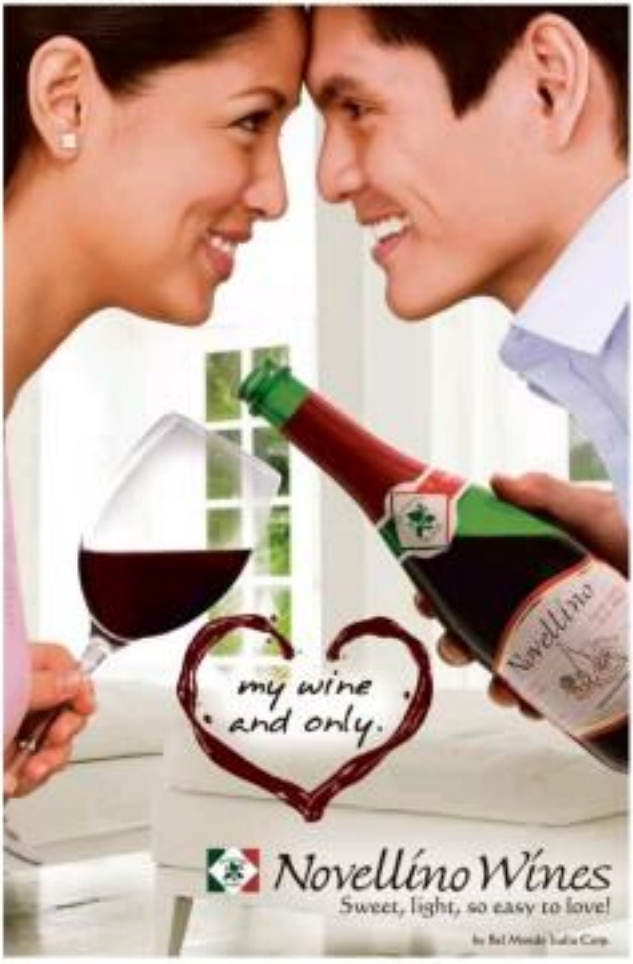
In a report to Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said the bulk of exports came from companies located in private economic zones, followed by those in public economic zones. Information technology parks and buildings also contributed to the total export pool.

Private ecozone exports amounted to $22.8 billion as of end-October, up 29.1 percent from last year's $14.3 billion. Public ecozones accounted for another $6.4 billion in exports, a 24.9-percent jump from the previous year's $5.1 billion.

Exports from IT parks and buildings also rose 9.7 percent to $3.6 billion in the January-October period from $3.3 billion a year ago.

Peza employment likewise increased 20.3 percent in the first 10 months to 725,747 from the 603,339 in the same period last year.

ECOZONE SU



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Aboitiz group sells shipping subsidiary to Nenaco for $81M

Sale excludes joint venture with Norway firm

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE CEBU-BASED Aboitiz family has agreed to sell its century-old shipping business to Taiwan's Nenaco-backed unit Wagenar Navigation Co. Inc. (Nenaco).

In a disclosure, holding firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) said its board unanimously agreed to the sale of Aboitiz Transport Systems Corp. (ATSC). AEV said its unit Aboitiz & Co. owns and held 50 percent of ATSC.

"AEV expects to receive approximately $81 million" from the sale, the company said.

"The agreement also requires Nenaco to make a tender offer for all ATS shares owned by the public at the same purchase price to be paid in ATSC the disclosure said.

In 2009, Nenaco's parent firm EGG MH Holdings Inc., a company owned by Kuwaiti Gulf Link Investments, offered to buy the Aboitiz family's transport business. However, the deal fell through after the Taiwan group's finances were strained by the financial crisis.

This time around, Nenaco expects to fund the ATS purchase with equity investments from China-Asset Mine BV, a Netherlands-incorporated company that is a wholly owned subsidiary of China Investment Government Corporation Fund (CIC), a private equity fund sponsored by China Export-Import Bank.

Under the agreement, Nenaco will purchase all of the Aboitiz family's investments in the transport sector, except its interests in joint ventures with the Absalon Group of Norway.

AEV will require prior to closing the 62.5 percent equity stake of ATS in the ship management, manning and crew management, and bulk transport businesses of the Aboitiz Absalon group for approximately P935.51 million.

Likewise, Aboitiz & Co. will acquire ATS' 10-percent equity stake in Aboitiz Absalon's chartering business for P44 million.

"The buyout is expected to close on or before Jan. 31, 2011," AEV said in the disclosure.

"The divestment of ATS was a very difficult decision to make considering the Aboitiz group has been in the transport business for over 100 years," said AEV president and CEO Erramon Aboitiz.

He said the company planned to use the money for the expansion of its banking and energy businesses.

Canadian miner raises $7M for PH projects

By Rina T. Clemente

CANADIAN MINER Cadan Resources Corp. generated $7.35 million in a private placement to finance mining programs and working capital.

Cadan Resources is a gold-silver-copper company. Its main projects include a gold-silver mine at Tibal in south-central Mindanao and several projects in its more than 9,000 hectares of property in Compostela Valley in southeastern Mindanao.

The placement was for 11 million units at a price of $0.66 a unit. Each unit consists of one common share and one-share purchase warrant, with each warrant exercisable to acquire an additional share at a price of $1.10 for a period of two years from the closing date.

"Net proceeds from the private placement will be applied toward the advancement of the company's Philippines minerals properties and general working capital," the company said in a statement posted on its official web site.

Last July, Cadan Resources said it was set to ramp up underground development work for the Tibal gold-silver project in South Cotabato.

Company president and CEO Brett Taylor said in a report that Cadan has obtained an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the ongoing mine development of its Tibal gold-silver project.

The ECC also gave environmental clearance for a processing plant to be constructed at a later development phase.

Cadan's updated resource report showed a 56-percent increase in gold grade, with indicated resources at 886,000 tons with 0.6 grams of gold a ton, and inferred resources of 434,000 tons with 0.6 grams of gold a ton.

Moody's retains PLDT credit rating of Baa2

By Michelle V. Remo

MOODY'S INVESTORS Service said there was bright revenue prospects for the telecommunications sector in the Philippines and the rest of Asia Pacific given the growing use of mobile technology services such as for payments and social networking.

Moody's said it has maintained the fixed ratings of Philippine Long Distance Telecommunications Co. and given it a "stable" outlook, the same with its outlook on most large telecommunications firms in the region.

In a statement, Moody's cited the growing use of mobile phones not only for voice services, but more especially for non-voice.

"Non-voice revenues in the Philippines is especially high due to widespread use of SMS, including via applications in mobile payments and international remittances," Moody's said.

The credit rating firm said the use of mobile services related to payments, remittances and social networkings, among others, has much room for growth. Telecommunications firms are investing to expand these services, it observed.

While there were income-generating potentials from the wide array of telecommunications services, Moody's said these firms were likewise faced with challenges brought by investments in these relatively new fields. As such, Moody's said it believed a "stable" rather than a "positive" outlook on the telecommunications sector was appropriate.

A "stable" outlook means that an existing credit rating is likely to stay the same within the short term. Baa2 is within the investment-grade category. It is the nine's highest investment grade among a total of 18.

Moody's cited a survey showing that the heaviest users of mobile services were in the Asia-Pacific region, including those from the Philippines, Indonesia and China.

"This mirrors use of investment in mobile payments, as technologies still in its early stage and not yet generating much revenue, but potentially important in fostering customer loyalty in emerging Asian markets, most notably the Philippines, with phones handling domestic and international remittances. And it seems we are largely as mobile-wallets, using specialty-so-called SMS messages," Moody's said.

The credit rating firm said it expects shareholders' dividends to rise given the likely sustained growth in revenues and the fact that telecommunications firms were not setting their eyes on expanding overseas.

"In Moody's view, operators in the region have the Philippines and Malaysia have limited requirements for domestic investment and are unlikely to invest overseas, so a logical use of their cash revenues from an equity investor's perspective is returning them to shareholders via increased dividends," it said.

PLDT reported that in the first half, it posted a net income of P21.7 billion, up 10 percent year-on-year.

The telecommunications firm said its profit, which excluded foreign exchange gain, grew 2 percent to P21.2 billion due to the increase in its internet and mobile service subscribers.

ADB allots $2.25B ...

From page B1

time so as to attract other development banks, commercial banks and the private sector to invest in these projects.

In addition to direct financing, ADB would set a target of raising $600 million from investor-countries to "buy down" the high up-front capital costs of investing in solar energy as well as design other innovative ways to ensure private sector investment.

Prior to the launch of ADB in May this year, the region produced less than 500 MW of solar power from installed plants. The capacity is expected to reach 1,000 MW by the end of 2011 and 3 GW of capacity by the end of its third year in May 2015.

In the Philippines, solar power producers are aggressively preparing to install power facilities that can generate some 300 MW over the next three years, buoyed largely by the abundance of resources and assumption for feed-in tariffs.

Ecozone exports surged ...

From page B1

in with exports, private sector investment provided the most jobs at 333,282 as of end-October, an 18.8 percent hike from the previous year's 280,519. IT parks and buildings generated another 269,114 jobs, jumping 33.7 percent from last year's 201,282. Jobs in public economic zones reached 123,177, up 2.3 percent from 120,401 in 2009.

Investment figures for the January-October period have yet to be released.

In the first three quarters, Peza locators registered a 32.1 percent jump in investment pledges to P86.6 billion from P65.5 billion in the same period a year ago.

These investment commitments came from the 364 projects that the Peza board approved in the first nine months.

The new projects were composed of 222 manufacturing and information technology projects and 41 developer projects, both new and expansion of existing investments.

From these investment pledges, Dr. Lim said Peza expected total exports to reach more than $5.6 billion and total additional employment to hit 63,519.

Gov't sets P60-B T-bond swap

From page B1

est rates—those that the market may use as guides in lending and borrowing...for very long-term maturities. The government agency said the market did not have any benchmarks for such borrowings.

The market is able to have a benchmark interest rate for a certain maturity if there is sufficient volume of securities with that maturity. At the moment, the Treasury said, the longest maturity of securities actively traded in the market was 12 years.

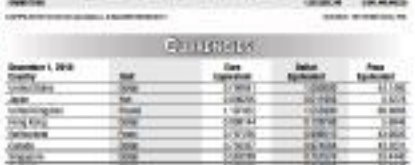
"With the swap, there will be sufficient volume of securities maturing in 25 years, and so this will help create a benchmark for 25-year [borrowing and lending]," Mendiola said.

He said having a benchmark for interest rates on very long-term borrowings was critical especially for investors in sectors like housing, power and other business ventures that required long-gestation periods.

It would be ironic for banks and other types of businesses to agree on the interest rates on loans if there was a benchmark, Mendiola added.

The move to swap peso-denominated treasury bonds will follow the government's similar activity two months ago when it swapped shorter-dated dollar-denominated Philippine bonds with longer-term maturities.

In September, the government swapped $1.24 billion in freshly-issued bench mark-ing to 2031 and $950 million maturing in 2034 with shorter-dated securities.



DTI suggested price for sugar suspended

New SRP to reflect real market prices

By Amy R. Borra

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has suspended the suggested retail price (SRP) for sugar to help stabilize the supply of the commodity, especially during the Christmas season.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said the suspension would also allow for consecutive inflow of raw and refined sugar into the domestic market as prices would be allowed to reach their real levels. The current SRP for regular refined is P52 per kilo it may before the prevailing market prices of P62 to P65 per kilo, he added.

At present, there is a shortfall in sugar supply of 150,000 tons due largely to the prolonged drought felt earlier this year, followed by the typhoons and the one-to-two-month delay in refining activities, Domingo said.

He, however, expressed optimism that supply would soon normalize as sugar millers were expected to resume operations by the middle of December. The DTI is expected to set a new SRP for sugar, that will be more reflective of the raw market prices, a month after the resumption of milling operations, he said.

Domingo admitted that the lifting of the SRP might cause further increases in sugar prices. He, however, assured the public that the DTI would continue its monitoring efforts and public information campaigns to ensure that no body would take advantage of the SRP suspension.

In the meantime, Domingo also revealed that the country would need to import more sugar next year as the government and stakeholders expect another supply shortfall of as much as 300,000 tons until the third quarter of 2012.

Domingo explained that supply and local demand were expected to even out next year at about 1.95 million tons. The reported 300,000-ton shortfall would be due to the country's commitment to export sugar to the United States under a quota agreement. The other 300,000 tons of the estimated shortfall would be for meeting the desired level of inventory throughout the year.

According to the trade chief, the DTI is set to hold discussions with the Department of Agriculture and the Sugar Regulatory Administration regarding the volume of sugar to be imported, as well as the timing of the importations.

Domingo said it might be better for the Philippines to import sugar between February and April when world prices of the commodity were lower compared to the prices the rest of the year.

In the meantime, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya assured the public that supply and prices of commodities and Noche Buena products would remain relatively stable throughout December.

Maglaya said industry players had committed not to raise the prices of processed meat products, milk products, pasta, sauces, cream, cheese and fruit cocktail beyond their respective suggested retail prices, from the "Pinoy Easy" brand will continue to retail at P36 per loaf up to early January next year.

TOOTH STORE MILESTONE
President Benigno Aquino III and JollibeeFoods Corp. chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong unveil a coffee painting that will serve as the commemorative marker of Jollibee's 1500th store milestone. The artwork was commissioned to local artist Jordan Mang'Oas in celebration of Jollibee's continuing leadership in the industry.

PAL: Open skies' policy should be fair

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT should not rush into implementing an "open skies" policy until other countries pledge to liberalize their own air travel sectors, flag carrier Philippine Airlines said.

In a statement, the Lucio Tan-led carrier said it would support an open skies policy but only if it was "fair to everyone" and would not unduly place local carriers at a disadvantage against foreign airlines.

At a hearing conducted by the House transportation committee, PAL senior assistant vice president for external affairs Ma. Stevenn Henares said foreign carriers enjoyed advantages in Philippine skies, delineating claims that there was lack of airline seats to accommodate tourists.

She said what the country really needed were more investments in infrastructure, a stable peace and order situation, and positive image abroad to attract tourists.

PAL said the opening up the country's air space to foreign carriers might put local airlines at a disadvantage. Foreign airlines in the region are usually supported or even co-owned by their respective governments (unlike PAL, which is privately run).

"It's not the number of airline seats that is the behind the lack of tourist interest in the Philippines but the country's negative image abroad, especially in the area of peace and order and security," she said.

Since the Aquino administration, she said the Philippines had been likewise already generating confidences to foreign airlines. At present, she said there were 47.4 million seats available to foreign and local carriers.

SyCip on the China conundrum

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

SYCIP

LAST finished turning 101 today," he said, looking extremely worried, and shaking his head. He was walking into a friend's office for a meeting, but Washington bid Up, "The Wise Old Owl" (probably one of the wisest this side of the East), showed no Christmas cheer in true 1998.

"See all that high-rise construction going on?" he said, waving out the window across the street, too, was a huge vacant lot filled with repossessed cars. "And all those cars?"

SyCip had that morning uncovered the banks residential letters that Thailand's financial institutions had gone that route, lending money profligately to property owners for high-rise buildings and one home, and that the country was on the brink of a serious economic crash. In a few months, the Philippines would follow. He said, if we continued heading that way.

Thailand's economy (just as SyCip had foretold), collapsed in July 1997, when the Asian crisis began. Many old securities firm managers of a Thai tycoons selling cumbrellas on the street—that's how bad it was.

Similarly, the Philippine economy suffered. Over-building had left a good number of new office spaces and residential condominiums vacant, just as the Wise Old Owl had warned when he was on the island

One Hyundai.

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Drive your way

One for All and All for

Our pledge of allegiance:

One Journey. One Family.

World Bank aid hit $80B during financial crisis

Independent review cites progress, but notes slow response

THE WORLD BANK group committed $120.7 billion and disbursed a record $80.6 billion during fiscal years 2009 and 2010—more than any other international financial institution—to help address the global economic downturn.

This was according to the report entitled "The World Bank Group's Response to the Global Economic Crisis" released recently by its Independent Evaluation Group (IEG).

According to IEG evaluation, the organization sought to achieve three objectives: support the most vulnerable countries, keep some infrastructure investment, and sustain the potential for private sector-led growth.

"The World Bank Group's response has fared the nature of the crisis—which called for a fiscal expansion to compensate for the sharply declining trade and private capital flows," IEG director general Vinod Thomas said in a statement. "The financing from the World Bank Group and other international financing institutions has helped in the worldwide effort to avert what might have been a harsher global downturn."

The ensuing challenges are with emerging fiscal imbalances, higher debt levels and financial sector vulnerabilities—and with ensuring that the increase in spending positions sustainable society," he added.

The IEG study is a real time assessment of ongoing activities, and as such, evaluates the immediate results and serves as an input to future work. It also looks at the response across the World Bank Group entities.

Substantially increased lending by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was accompanied by modestly higher financing through the International Development Association (IDA).

The volume of new operations of International Finance Corp. (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the private sector arms of the group, followed the business cycle and focused on a set of targeted investments. These included IFC's efforts in trade finance, especially in low-income countries and the introduction of a set of innovative initiatives. MIGA's guarantees supported European banks' areas for cross-border investments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The World Bank, while responding to the crisis with some delay, has demonstrated preparedness based on its knowledge of poverty impacts, long-term dialogue with country authorities, and ability to expand lending capacity that could continued and careful attention, according to the IEG's findings.

Areas that need strengthening include the ability to act quickly in the event of such crises and preparedness to carry out financial sector interventions.

IEG's crisis initiatives responded substantively to capital constraints and had a positive effect especially in low-income countries, yet implementation challenges were underestimated and the response was pure priority to preserving its portfolio, the report noted. DIJ

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Issuance of Eligibility Documents	December 1 – 15, 2010 upon payment of P10,000.00
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents	December 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals	December 17, 2010, 10:00 a.m. upon approval of the Pre-Qualification Committee
Issuance of Invitation to Bid	December 17, 2010
Pre-bid Conference	January 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	January 31, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Opening of Technical and Financial Bids	January 31, 2011, 2:30 p.m.

PHILIPPINE SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION

NOTICE OF REBID

US regulators to face foreclosure probes

WASHINGTON, D.C.—US regulators will be under pressure on Wednesday to show lawmakers they are better policing shoddy mortgage industry and subprime debt that brought the economy to its knees and sparked a massive problem.

The Senate banking committee is holding a hearing on problems in the mortgage servicing industry and subprime debt that spurred a broader risk to the economy on amount to an unsolved financial crisis problem.

The issues facing the still-struggling housing market have been exacerbated by allegations that banks have used "robo-signers" to sign hundreds of foreclosure documents a day without proper legal documentation.

Regulators have been criticized for not cracking the widespread flaws, which have reignited public anger with banks that received billions of dollars in taxpayer aid during the financial crisis.

Federal bank regulators and all 50 state attorneys general are probing bank of America, JP Morgan, and other major mortgage servicers, many of whom temporarily halted foreclosures to examine their practices, only to then resume them.

Bank regulators, including Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chair Sheila Bair and federal Reserve Governor Daniel Tarullo, are expected to provide an update on the probe and how big a threat the documentation problems could pose to the banks and housing market recovery.

Representatives from mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have also been summoned to appear.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac officials will likely be questioned on their recent decision to resume sales of foreclosed properties.

"I want to hear why they feel that they have corrected problems that have allowed the foreclosures to take place without the robber stamping and all the measures that took place in the foreclosure practices," Robert Menendez, chair of the Senate banking panel's housing subcommittee, told Reuters.

Much of the action pertaining to foreclosures is taking place outside Washington, with state attorneys general taking a prominent role in investigating the servicing problems.

Officials from bank of America and JP Morgan Chase have said they would like to have a settlement with state's soon, but so far a deal remains elusive and is unsold for months. Debate one is reached.

The attorneys general are gathering in Florida this week for the winter meeting of their national association. Among their points will be Elizabeth Warren, President Barack Obama's top adviser on consumer issues.

Warren was scheduled to attend a reception on Tuesday night to hear where the attorneys general foreclosure investigation stands and to provide state officials with an update on efforts to stand up the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Attorneys general and lawmakers have taken aim at the so-called "robo-signing" practice in which mortgage servicers go ahead with foreclosure proceedings even as they negotiate possible loan modifications aimed at keeping struggling borrowers in their homes. They have derailed the process as confusing for borrowers.

A top housing regulator as well as officials from Fannie and Freddie defended the process, however, in testimony prepared for Wednesday's hearing and obtained by Reuters. Reuters

Jobless benefits end for 2M Americans

EXTENDED unemployment benefits for nearly 2 million Americans begin to run out Wednesday, ending off a steady stream of income and generating a dismal holiday season for people already struggling with bills they cannot pay.

Unless Congress changes its mind, benefits that has been extended up to 99 weeks will end this month.

That means Christmas is not of the question for Wayne Pittman, 46, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and his wife and 9-year-old son. The carpenter was sending out 30 to 40 resumes a week at the beginning of the decade, but now that gradually drop to 15 hours before it dried up completely. His last $287 check will go to necessities, not presents.

"I have a little boy, and it's kind of hard" to explain to him," Pittman said.

The average weekly unemployment benefit in the US is $302.90, though it varies widely depending on how many unemployment payments he receives, plus potential state programs and other factors, it's hard to know for sure who will lose their benefits at any given time. But the Labor Department estimates that, without a Congress-approved extension, about 2 million people will be cut off by Christmas.

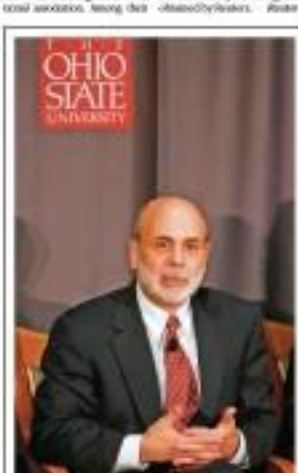
Congressional opponents of extending the benefits beyond this month say fiscal responsibility should come first. Republicans in the House and Senate, along with a handful of conservative Democrats, say they are open to extending benefits, but not if it means adding to the $13.6 trillion national debt.

Even if Congress does lengthen benefits, each extension is at best a stopgap measure, said David Stockton, executive director of Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte, North Carolina, which has seen 20,000 new clients since the Great Recession started in December 2007.

"We're going to have to have a new conversation with the people who are still suffering about the permanent changes they're going to have to make to stay out of the homeless shelter," she said.

Forget Christmas presents. What she so-called. "Where" want most of all is what remains elusive in the worst economy in generations: a job.

"I am not searching for a job. I am begging for one," said Eric Gallibois, 30, as she prepared to move out of a homeless shelter in Pensacola, Florida, where she and her five children have been living. AP



FEDERAL Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke speaks at The Ohio State University on Nov. 30. Bernanke, whose efforts to spur US economic growth are under fire, said unrelated high unemployment could mark a high societal cost. REUTERS

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG INGATANG-YAMAN
(Bureau of the Treasury)
INTRAMUROS, MANILA 1002

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the Public that effective December 1, 2010, the new Telephone Trunk Line Number of the Bureau of the Treasury will be 567-54-80.

The Management

Asian marts hit by Europe, Korea woes

BEIJING—Most Asian stock markets fell Wednesday amid worries about Europe's debt problems, Korean tensions and disappointing growth in Australia.

Oil prices rose above $84 a barrel despite fears European debts and a possible rate hike by China might hurt crude demand.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 0.1 percent to 9,995.96, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.4 percent to 22,927.09, and the Shanghai Composite index fell 0.3 percent to 2,812.31.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.2 percent at 4,579.4 after data showed the country's gross domestic product expanded just 0.2 percent in the third quarter from the previous three months.

"Trading is sluggish today. Investors are on the sidelines waiting to see what happens in Korea amid the European debt situation," said Lian Yip, a strategist in Hong Kong for First Shanghai Securities.

In China, investors were mainly looking for a possible rate hike to cool inflation, which might slow rapid growth and rein in liquidity that is helping to support share prices.

"At this point, it's a psychological effect on markets. Even though a rate hike would be "not so damaging," Yip said. "Overall, for mainland China and the Hong Kong market, the outlook is still positive."

Among a handful of gainers, South Korea's Kospi rose 0.7 percent to 1,919.09 as jitters over sporadic skirmishes between the two Koreas eased. Market benchmarks in Taiwan and Bombay also were up.

In New York on Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 66.47, or 0.6 percent, to close at 11,006.05.

The Dow was down earlier but recovered some of its losses after President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers promised to work a compromise before the end of the year on extending tax cuts adopted during the presidency of George W. Bush.

Some optimism emerged with the news that consumer confidence in the US anchored up in November ahead of the crucial Christmas buying season, another sign that the recovery to the world's largest economy is picking up pace.

The Conference Board reported that its main US consumer confidence index rose to a five-month high of 54.1, from a revised 49.8 in October. Analysts were expecting a far more modest rise to 52. AP

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2011

I. GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

- Three Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Non-Invasive Diagnostic Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Peripheral Vascular, Critical Care Cardiology, Electrophysiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Adult Pulmonary Medicine & Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine

Qualifications:
- Must complete Residency Training in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology or PCP (with PCC accredited institution respectively)
- PCP Diplomate
- Fellowship Program which must be certified and approved by the DOTR Applicants with unapproved but are accepted by DOTR will not be processed
- Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2011
- Academic Year 2011 starts on April 1, 2011

II. FELLOWSHIP

Adult Cardiology Department
Qualifications:
- ✓ Certificate of Residency Training in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- ✓ PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2011
  - Academic Year 2011 starts on April 1, 2011

Adult Pulmonary Medicine Section
Qualifications:
- ✓ PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2011
  - Academic Year 2011 starts on April 1, 2011

Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine Section
Qualifications:
- ✓ Certificate of Residency in General Pediatrics (locally accredited institution)
- ✓ Must passed the written examination conducted by the Philippine Pediatric Society Foundation, Inc.
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2011
  - Academic Year 2011 starts on April 1, 2011

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics Division
Qualifications:
- ✓ Must be a graduate of Doctor of Medicine and must have undergone residency training in Internal Medicine
- ✓ Passed the Physician Licensure Examination given by the Philippine Board of Internal Medicine
- ✓ Certificate of Program which must be submitted and approved by the UP-PGH Department with concurrence and not approved by DOTR will not be processed
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2011
  - Academic Year 2011 starts on April 1, 2011

General Requirements:
- Medical Graduate (certified true copy)
- Professional Records with the General Weighted Average (Certified True Copy)
- Medical School Ranking (Certified True Copy)
- Three (3) pieces of 2x2 recent colored picture with at least one taken within the Training Officer and Director of the previous Training Programme (Duplicate taken in photocopies will not be accepted and will invalidate application)
- Five (5) pcs. 2"x2" colored picture

Please submit your recommendation to:

ANDRESITO N. TAN-LIM, MD, FPCP
Program Manager I
The Department of Graduate Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Gertrude G. Ocampo or Ms. Mercedes T. Arrieta at 981-0300 loc. 2414, 2415 locals 2416, 2418, 2419 & 2420 and faxing information to your can e-mail to aan@phc.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
Regional Office No. III Pila, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The NIA Region 3 office through duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee invites to participate in the bidding for the procurement of equipment, supplies and materials for the following projects subject to the conditions of the Bidding Documents, which may be obtained by interested bidders upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents as indicated below:

The NIA Region 3 office now invites bids for the construction of irrigation works and connected works for the following projects subject to the conditions of the Bidding Documents, which may be obtained by interested bidders upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents as indicated below:

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) citizenship or ownership, and which are licensed to engage in the business of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PBAC Secretariat Duties-n-Oty, No.3, Name and inspect the Bidding Documents at the above address from date of bidding December 1, 2010, from Monday to Friday during 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting December 2, 2010 from the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

PBAC (C) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 3, 2010, 10:00 A.M. at PBAC (C) Pump House, Brgy. Mangga, Mabini, Batangas, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Sealed bids must be submitted to PBAC (C)'s Procurement Section, Brgy. 1 Pump Dome, Mabini Road, San Nicolas, Talpos City on or before December 21, 2010 not later than 10:00 A.M. (PBAC (C) Office hour). Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PBAC (C) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to our website at www.nia.gov.ph and to the PhilGEPS website at www.philgeps.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ROMEO A. ARANDIA
Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
(CALABARZON)
3F Andaseven Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
Assistance 0, 0918

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
1	**BOB-BANLA, INC.** LISP II, Brgy. Diañera City	Mr. Takao Endoh/ Japanese	Div & Mold Fabrication Manager
2	**BOB-BANLA, INC.** LISP II, Brgy. Diañera City	Mr. Tomotaka Ikeda/ Japanese	Div & Mold Fabrication Manager
3	**NXP SEMICONDUCTORS PHILIPPINES, INC.** LISP 1, Cabuyao, Laguna	Ms. Shailesh Ramakant Kulkarni/ Australian	Country Controller
4	**PHILIPPINES EPSON OPTICAL, INC.** ISEPZ, LISP, Diañera, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Katsuhisa Miyahara/ Japanese	Administration Manager
5	**NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC.** Brgy. Nogue, Calauan, Laguna	Mr. Philippe Mitschkerlich/ Swiss	Project Engineer- Staff
6	**NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC.** Brgy. Nogue, Calauan, Laguna	Ms. Yasui (Young)/ Chinese	Consumer Marketing Executive - Food
7	**AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC.** Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Jo Seon Kun/ Korean	Vice President Test Operations - Phase II & III	Technical Advisor
8	**TAKATA (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION** Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Kazuaki Akamol/ Japanese	Technical Advisor
9	**ISUZU AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION** Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Akira Ohnishi/ Japanese	General Manager - Corporate Administration
10	**J-SARA INT'L., INC.** CPIP, Brgy. Biñan, Calamba City	Mr. Myung Nam Jo/ Korean	President
11	**J-SARA INT'L., INC.** CPIP, Brgy. Biñan, Calamba City	Mr. Yun Jung/ Korean	Vice President
12	**J-SARA INT'L., INC.** CPIP, Brgy. Biñan, Calamba City	Ms. Yeo Jung Eon/ Korean	Executive Assistant

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, III, CESO III
Regional Director

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 7, Philippine Geothermal Production Complex, Tiwi, Makban, Batangas
Telefax No. (+63-049) 541-2000
Direct Line: (632) 840-2000, (632) 840-2010

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2010 Corporate Budget, intends to apply the cost of the **Million Four Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php1,449,950.00)**, inclusive of all applicable taxes, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Geophysical Equipment: 2.5Hz Geophone** of PNOC EC (Tiwi-Makban Steam Gathering Project, Brgy. Mahabang Dile (Palayan), Tiwi, Batangas).

PNOC EC now invites bids for the Procurement of Geophysical Equipment: 2.5Hz Geophone. Delivery is within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the last 3 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in the Instruction to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) citizenship or ownership, and which are licensed to engage in the business of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC's Procurement Section and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday during 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting December 2, 2010 from the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 3, 2010, 10:00 A.M. at PNOC EC Pump Supply Base, Mahabap, Mabini, Batangas, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Sealed bids must be submitted to PNOC EC's Procurement Section, Brgy. 1 Pump Dome, Mabini Road, San Nicolas, Talpos City on or before December 21, 2010 not later than 10:00 A.M. (PNOC EC Office hour). Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to our website at www.pnoc.ec.gov.ph and to the PhilGEPS website at www.philgeps.gov.ph

(Sgd.)
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
CCLC NCR building, 851 Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong City

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
[illegible] [illegible]	Changjiu Mao/ [illegible]	General Manager
[illegible] [illegible]	Pinder Dhindsa/ [illegible]	Project Executive
ST COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES (formerly ALCATEL-LUCENT PHILIPPINES) ST International Incorporated Center, 6806 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Steven Jerwin Lindsay/ [illegible]	Head of Solutions for Operations
SHELL SHARED SERVICES (ASIA) B.V. 7/F Shell Pilipinas Bldg., 142 Salcedo Street, Makati City	Brian Mak Hong/ Singaporean	CCC End Operations Manager
SPORTS CENTRAL (MANILA), INC. 3F GB Manila sur Alabang and San Bernardino Rd., Ermita, Manila	Courtney Aaron Dale Clark/ American	Project and Marketing Consultant
ADVANCED WORLD SYSTEMS, INC. 10F Citibank Tower, Citibank Square, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Shinobu Ohta/ Japanese	Japanese Language Advisor
ADVANCED WORLD SYSTEMS, INC. 10F Citibank Tower, Citibank Square, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Shigo Nishiyama/ Japanese	Japanese Language Consultant
METAWATER, INC. Unit 2601 Prestige Tower, Condominium 1, Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Akihiro Sato/ Japan	Quality Checking + Validating Representative
METAWATER, INC. Unit 2601 Prestige Tower, Condominium 1, Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Steven Pascal Michel Martinez/ French	French Speaking + Validating Representative
METAWATER, INC. Unit 2601 Prestige Tower, Condominium 1, Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Gino Chiara Antonio Mondelli/ French	Quality Checking + Speaking / Validating Representative
METAWATER, INC. Unit 2601 Prestige Tower, Condominium 1, Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Katherine Sibil/ [illegible]	Quality Checking + Validating Representative
FINES AIR INC. 3/F Solaire Sports Bldg. 2130 Roxas Avenue, Pasay City	Ryuichiro Matsuzaki/ [illegible]	Senior Director for HR and Branding and Communications
HERBALIFE INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 14F Tektite Tower, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Chuanghuan Kan/ [illegible]	Country Manager
[illegible] [illegible]	Eddy Apolonio/ [illegible]	Quality Audit Operations Officer
ASTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F Tower Legaspi Tower, 300 Roxas Drive cor. Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Hikaru/Ping Michael/ [illegible]	Technical Director, Commercial
SANYO PHILIPPINES, INC. 6/F Ayala House Bldg., 5184 Ayala Avenue cor. Buendia Avenue, Makati City	Takeo Hirata/ [illegible]	Area Director
LET GLOBAL INC. 2/F Bldg. B, One Campus Place, 23 Park Drive, McKinley Hill Village, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Venkata Pavan Lingamaneni/ [illegible]	Systems Analyst (Oracle EBS)
TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED 4/F to 7/F Net One Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 26th St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Shailesh Bhoja/ [illegible]	Team Leader
LOGIWAY CORPORATION 4/F 3M Makati Life Place, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jaime Tang/ Chinese	Marketing Manager (Client C)

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RENATO C. ALMARIO
Regional Director

OBITUARIES

ROLANDO M. ARCEO
(Rolly)

December 9, 1940 – November 30, 2010
of Mandaluyong and Antipolo City

Tragically joined his Creator at the age of 69

His wife, SELMA CLOMAYA; Children, THERESA & RENZ, CYNTHIA & JOEL, ALEX & CHENG, BOBBY & GIL, SHEILA & JEL, BILL-BIL & RONNEL; Mother, MERCEDES MANALOTO; Brothers, BOY, BEE, JAKE, and JOE; Sisters, FELY, JULIET, and MALOU; In-Laws, and Grandchildren, request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state starting the afternoon of Friday, December 3, 2010, at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment is on Sunday, December 5, 2010 after the 1:00 P.M. Mass at the Garden of Peace, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THERE WILL BE A **PUBLIC HEARING** ON THE **REVISED ZONAL VALUES** (5TH REVISION OF B.I.R., RDO 41, **MANDALUYONG CITY** ON **DECEMBER 9, 2010, 1:00 PM,** AT THE **SESSION HALL** OF MANDALUYONG CITY HALL.

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BUSINESS

Long-term water supply plan for Metro readied

All possible sources to be identified

By Amy R. Remo

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is drafting a roadmap to identify and develop new water sources, including the controversial—and Laiban Dam project, to secure Metro Manila's water supply.

At the sidelines of a House energy committee hearing on Tuesday, MWSS officer-in-charge Mario Cruz said the state-run agency expected to finalize by early next year the roadmap that would identify all the possible water sources surrounding the metropolis.

According to Cruz, MWSS was still in the **think of reviewing these sources. The agency** even hired more consultants to determine the elasticity of water demand in Metro Manila, home to some 14 million people.

The roadmap-being drawn-was to prepare for an expected water supply shortage within five years' time.

Currently, Metro Manila sources over 90 percent of its requirements solely from the Angat Dam in Bulacan province. But it was forecasted that without any new water source other than the Angat Dam, Metro Manila was expected to have a water shortfall of 1,600 million liters per day (mld) by 2015.

This would have been solved if the proposal of diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp. had not been scrapped.

San Miguel had earlier submitted an unsolicited proposal to develop a high dam at the Laiban watershed in Rizal. The P65-billion project, which was scrapped due to a controversy over its supposed overcapacity and high impact on water rates, was to provide 1,900 mld of raw water for Metro Manila.

MWSS earlier reported that it was establishing on a new policy direction to develop several new and smaller water sources.

The regulator had been working with concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to spur upwards of three-and-seven treatment facilities to address growing water requirements.

The other possible raw sources that can be further developed also included the Wawa Dam and Gumuy-Sarmag—all in the Metro Manila—and the Pampanga River.

Maynilad has already begun tapping the Laguna Lake, the country's largest lake, for its customers in Muntinlupa City down June.

FIRST WOMAN MAN OF THE YEAR
Lilia B. de Lima, director general of the Philippine Export Zone Authority, is the first woman named PMP Management Man of the Year by the influential Management Association of the Philippines. She shares the prestigious award this year with Ramon R. del Rosario Jr., president and CEO of the Phinma Group. With them are PMAP president Eusebio Tan (left) and chair Diomedes Bubungan (right).

Ayala Land eyes issuance of P10B in floating-rate notes

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) plans to issue up to P10 billion in floating-rate corporate notes in combination of bonds via private placement.

In a disclosure on Wednesday, the subsidiary of conglomerate Ayala Corp. said it had tapped BDO Capital Corp., Citibank N.A. and HSBC as its underwriters for the said issuance.

"Proceeds of the notes net of issue-related expenses will be used by the company for general corporate purposes and to partially finance its capital expenditure (capex) program for 2011," the company told the local bourse.

The debt will have a maturity of five years, it said.

ALI's board also approved and authorized the redemption of up to P1.9 billion in existing corporate notes for the new papers.

Earlier this year, ALI announced a P27-billion capex program, the highest in the company's history for the launch of new projects across all product segments in 2010.

Officials said the amount might be higher for 2011 as the firm gears up for the unveiling of even more property developments.

In the same disclosure, the company declared a regular cash dividend of P0.048 per share for the second semester ending Dec. 31, 2010, on its outstanding common shares as of record date Dec. 14, payable on ...

AYALA, 80

Profit surge seen for PH's largest bank

By Michelle F. Remo

BANCO DE ORO Unibank Inc., the country's largest bank, expects to hit its net income target of P41 billion for 2010, citing favorable performance of all its business units, including corporate and consumer lending, and treasury.

The bank's current goal for the year is almost 35 percent higher than the 30 billion registered last year.

"We will hit the target; everybody has been working hard. Our businesses and our branches are meeting their targets, as if you consolidate all of them, then the whole bank is [poised] to meet its [full-year] target," Nestor Ty-Gomez, chair of BDO, told reporters during a briefing yesterday.

In the first three quarters of the year, BDO has already shown an encouraging income figure. It reported having posted a net income of P6.4 billion to January to September, which already surpassed the full-year income in 2009 and was up 58 percent year-on-year.

The bank said it has been expanding its loans, from where it generated a significant part of its income. Its loan portfolio accounted to P300.7 billion as of end-September, up 18 percent from that registered in the same period a year ago.

Growth in loans extended by BDO is above the industry average of nearly 13 percent.

BDO said the increase in its loan portfolio was supported largely by an increase in the amount of deposits it has solicited from the public. The bank's total deposits reached P740.9 billion as of end-September, up 18 percent year-on-year.

The bank credits low interest rates and investor to branches for the rise in deposits.

The low interest-rate environment in the country since last year is influenced by the accommodative policy of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The BSP has kept its overnight borrowing and lending rates at historic lows since July last year in a bid to encourage borrowing.

Monetary officials have opted to keep interest rates low in a bid to accelerate growth of the economy, noting that loans largely support consumption and investments.

Electricity supply enough to support EVs, says Meralco

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN IF the country were on the brink of a power shortage, there will still be enough electricity to supply the additional requirements that will arise from the proliferation of electric vehicles (EVs) in the future, a ranking power industry executive has said.

Manila Electric Co. senior vice president and chief operating officer Oscar Reyes said **that within the company's franchise area,** power supply should not be a problem, even with the foreseen mainstream use of EVs.

"The requirements could be much bigger, although I don't have the details right now, **but we should be able to accommodate any** (additional) requirements for charging electric vehicles within our franchise area," he told reporters.

"We will ensure that we have the capacity. That's why we're working with different generators for additional bilateral contracts, aside from building our own capacity," he added.

The power distributor is now in the process of getting up a separate power generation company that aims to provide it with more stable and affordable supply of electricity.

Meralco president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan earlier expressed support for the launch of EVs into the mainstream, committing to provide funding for the EV program.

He did not specify up to how much the company would be willing to shell out, however, saying only that the Worldwide Fund for Nature-Philippines, through its chair Vincent Perez, had asked for P3 million.

But Meralco Energy Inc. president Jesus Francisco said it would not be that simple for Meralco to roll out facilities that would support the EV program as Meralco was a regulated entity.

"It's difficult for Meralco to commit assets that will figure in its rate base without getting the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission, since Meralco is a regulated entity. Nevertheless, I will still try to convince Meralco that setting up charging stations (for EVs) is necessary," he said.

Francisco was Meralco president until end-January 2009. The company, he headed once, Meralco energy subsidiary in 2011, was now working with the University of the Philippines College of Engineering in the development of a technically and economically viable electric tricycle.

BDO unit expands share in PH credit card business

By Dante L. Lucas

THE CREDIT card unit of Banco De Oro Unibank Inc. (BDO) now has the largest merchant acquisition base in the industry, the by family-controlled bank said yesterday.

At the same time, it also reported a sharp rise in the number of business partners that accept its credit cards.

In a briefing, executive vice president and consumer lending group head Rolando C. Yanchanco said BDO now dominated the credit card merchant acquiring business in the Philippines with a market share of 41 percent.

In contrast to the card issuing business, the merchant acquiring business thrives on fee-based revenues by handling, routing and settling transactions.

BDO-affiliated merchants now number about 48,000 nationwide representing a 12-percent increase over the 2009 figure.

Industry reports showed BDO had the largest base at over a million holders.

At the same time, BDO predicted the steady growth in the value of trade between the Philippines and China, prompting it to launch a credit card aimed at clients doing business in both countries.

In the briefing, the publicly listed bank unveiled the BDO China UnionPay (CUP) Credit Card with the intention of providing to cardmas of over one million and other prospective customers "greater convenience when traveling to China."

BDO said CUP also aims to provide its merchant partners with more possible credit card transactions for business growth.

CUP is the most widely used credit card

BDO, 80

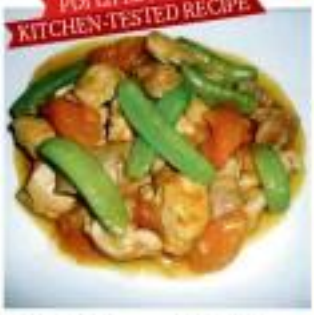
IN THIS ISSUE
James Yap's ham with orange marmalade glaze /C2

LIFESTYLE Food

Mandarin Chicken

Cut into bite-size pieces, this is easy to bring along as lunch 'baon'

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE



By Nonoy Chikiamco
Contributor

NOW THAT Christmas season is here, there are plenty of fresh imported fruits in the market. One of my favorites is the Mandarin orange, which is sweet and juicy, and less acidic than the California orange.

D.I.Y. DO-IT-YOURSELF

Here's a recipe for a chicken dish that uses Mandarin oranges. It's great served with rice, and because the chicken thighs and breasts are already deboned and cut into bite-size pieces, the dish is also easy to bring along as lunch boxes, whether for school or the office.

(For more recipes, visit my blog, www.cornucopiakitchen.com.)

Mandarin Chicken

4 chicken thighs, deboned
2 chicken breasts, deboned
Salt and pepper
2 tbsp cooking oil
1 onion, chopped
3-4 cloves garlic, minced
1-1 orange juice
2 x fresh Mandarin orange segments, peeled, each segment cut into half and seeded (around 2 oranges)
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp cornstarch
1 x unsweetened orange juice

Cut chicken thighs and breasts into bite-size pieces. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in a wok to medium heat and sauté onions until soft and transparent, around 2 minutes. Add garlic and sauté until golden brown, around 1 minute. Stir in chicken meat and cook until brown.

Pour in orange juice and let simmer until chicken is fully cooked and tender, around 10-15 minutes. Add Mandarin orange segments during last minute of cooking. Mix together sugar, soy sauce and cornstarch and add to wok. Let simmer until sauce is thick, around 1 minute. Add more juice and heat through.

Cook's tips

- For more flavor, keep the chicken skin on when deboning and slicing the chicken.
- Fresh Mandarin oranges are available in the fruit/fruit section of most supermarkets. Wash fruits well and pat dry before peeling.
- For cutting the orange segments in half, a pair of clean kitchen scissors does the job more easily than a knife. Make sure to remove all the seeds.

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Signature
"Understanding the Filipino palate, the taste for savory and melt-in-your-mouth goodness resulted to this unique dish made with premium meat that is hard not to like."
Chef Cheryl Pineda's Roast Angus Beef Belly Set

James' ham with orange marmalade glaze, Jonas' creamy ham and peas pasta, Rico's ham and cheese panini

IN BASKETBALL, "fears confer vision" refers to one of the most grueling and competitive seasons in the year.

Recently at the San Miguel Culinary Center in Pasig, it wasn't kitchen duty for three of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA)'s most exciting rogues.

James Yap, Jonas Villanueva, and Rico Maierhofer donned aprons, wielded kitchen knives, pots and ladles, to see who would come up with the best Christmas recipe for Pembroke Pinoy Ham.

What they came up with:

James' Ham with Orange Marmalade Glaze

1 Pembroke Pinoy Ham, thawed

Brown sugar for coating ham (glaze):

½ c orange marmalade
2 tbsp prepared mustard
⅓ c brown sugar
½ c water

Glaze: Mix all ingredients to a saucepan. Cook over moderate heat until consistency resembles maple syrup. Set aside. Coat ham with brown sugar glaze at 400 °F for 15 minutes. Brush with glaze occasionally. Slice ham upon serving. Makes 10-12 servings.

Jonas V's Creamy Ham and Peas Pasta

400 g spaghetti or fettuccine
2 tbsp butter
½ c chopped onions
½ c red bell pepper, sliced (3" x 1")
½ lb Pembroke Pinoy Ham, sliced (1" x 1")
½ c all purpose flour
2 c chicken broth
1 c all purpose cream
2 c green peas
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp ground black pepper
¼ c queso de bola grated
¼ c chopped parsley

Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

In saucepan, melt butter; sauté onions, red pepper and ham. Blend in flour. Add chicken broth and all-purpose cream. Cook over low flame, stirring occasionally until sauce is slightly thick. Add green peas and seasoning. Simmer for three minutes.

Right before serving, toss pasta, sauce, grated cheese and parsley. Add extra cheese on top. Makes 10-12 servings.

Rico's Ham & Cheese Panini

4 pc hoagies
3 tbsp mayonnaise
2 pc tomatoes, sliced
12 slices queso de bola, thinly sliced
16 slices Pembroke Pinoy Ham
2 tbsp butter, softened

Pan Fry ham. Spread mayo on the inside of the bread. Place tomatoes, cheese and ham. Spread butter on the outsides of the bread. Repeat to make 4 to 6 of their sandwiches.

Heat a Teflon pan and panfry the sandwiches until it can slide (a crispy, arrows) 7-8 minutes. Makes four sandwiches.

Holiday fudge balls, 2-layer cake with choco ganache, panettone with glazed fruits

THE BOSS. Kitchen diaries: three new ways to serve something sweet and delightful.

Revive each fudge brownie balls rolled in nuts. Use a two-layer cake covered with rich chocolate ganache as table centerpiece. What about single serve panettone filled with glazed fruits and drizzled with a sugar and rum glaze?

Holiday Nutty Fudge Balls

1 500 g pack Maya Decadence Fudge Brownie Mix
½ c peanut butter
2 tbsp light corn syrup
icing:
½ c confectioners' sugar
2 tbsp liquid or multi-purpose creamer (Creamy or milk)
assorted chopped nuts (almond flakes, pistachio, walnuts)

Prepare fudge brownie mix according to package directions and make into eclairs. Measure 500 g of mixture just inside the rim be flatter ones) and mix with peanut butter and corn syrup. Form into balls of 14-15 grams each.

Prepare glaze: Combine confectioner's sugar with liquid until spreading consistency. Coat fudge balls with sugar glaze then roll in different chopped nuts. Place in cupcake paper cups and served.

Variation: Instead of balls, flatten the dough into ¼-inch thick then cut use dough using assorted Christmas shape cookie cutters. Top with glazed and cover with chopped nuts.

Coffee-Fudge Torte

Cake:
1 550 g pack Maya Decadence Devil's Food Cake Mix
Chocolate Ganache:
350 g chocolate bars, semisweet or dark, grated
½ pack all-purpose cream
2 tbsp butter
Coffee cream:
1 c whipping cream, chilled
¼ c sifted powdered sugar
2 tbsp coffee liquor
3 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tbsp gelatin powder (dissolved in 2 tbsp cold water; then add 2 tbsp hot water)
Garnish:
Shelled chocolate rice cues (optional)
Fresh Vanilla (optional)

Prepare cake as per 9"x13" or 10"x15" Grease and line a 9-inch round pan. Set aside. Prepare cake as per package directions. Cool and slice cake into 3 layers. Set aside.

Prepare Ganache:

In a heavy saucepan, heat chocolate until melted in low heat. Once melted add the cream. Cook until slightly thick. Remove from heat. Stir in butter. Cool.

Prepare Coffee Cream:

In a mixer, whip cream until it doubles in volume, then add sugar and continue beating until smooth and fluffy. Alternately add the coffee liquor and cocoa powder, then until soft peaks form. Mix in gelatin mixture until well blended.

To assemble:

Cut one layer of cake spread on top ½ cup of chocolate ganache. Attach the second layer of cake to the first and spread coffee cream on top almost half an inch thick then attach the last layer of cake and spread on top the remaining ganache. Cover and design the sides of the layered cake with chocolate ganache. Decorate with marbled chocolates and fresh fruits on the sides.

Panettone Cake with Rhum Glaze

1 520 g pack Maya Decadence Yellow Cake Mix
3 pc eggs
½ c water
2 c glazed fruits
Rhum Glaze:
1 c confectioners' sugar
2 tbsp rum

Preheat oven to 375°F or 191°C. Grease and flour four 3½ x 3 inch size wonder mold pans. Set aside. Slightly beat eggs, add water and cake mix. Blend well then mix in glazed fruits.

Pour batter mixture in the cake molds and bake for 25 minutes or until done. Then unmold cake to cool. Set aside.

Prepare glaze:

Combine confectioners' sugar and rum until spreading consistency. Pour into cake to get an icicles effect.

Makes 4 pieces.

Shopping card exclusively for OFWs

FOR OVERSEAS Filipino workers, the SM Consumer Global Pinoy Card, launched in 2010, is more than just a shopping card.

The premier entry-level card gives cardholders access to SM Cares Program's Global Pinoy Lounges in SM malls in Manila, Cebu and Davao, where OFWs can relax, surf the Internet for free, and make free calls to the Philippines.

The card also offers cardholders a 10% discount on purchases at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Savemore, Hypermarket, Supervalue, Shoemart, Watsons, Toys R Us, Office Warehouse, Surplus Depot, Ace Hardware, Sanrio, Kultura, Tower Records, Bench, Fitness First, Bo's Coffee, Starbucks, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Cinnabon, Krispy Kreme, Mister Donut, Tim Ho Wan, Yoshinoya, Tokyo Tokyo, Chowking, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Goldilocks, Max's Restaurant, Manam Comfort Filipino, Kanin Club, Conti's, Abe, Gerry's Grill, Ramen Nagi, Sumo Sam, Tony Roma's, Pancake House, Wildflour Cafe + Bakery, Cabalen, Aristocrat, Bizu, Cafe Ysabel, Cibo, Cocoron, Dencio's, Dulcinea, Fely-Q, Figaro Coffee, Gloria Maris, Kabisera, Kamayan, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Lemon Grass, Mesa, Mikawa, Pepper Lunch, Pizza Hut, Shakey's, Sizzling Plate, Tapa King, Tokyo Garden, Vikings, Wendy's, Yabu, Yellow Cab, Zagu, Zark's Burgers, Zen Kitchen, Zubuchon

POM Sarsa

TOM Yum

Old Thai dishes made new

JAMES WORMSMARAN, an LA-based Thai chef who worked at the famed Sanaya Thai fusion restaurant in Beverly Hills, has opened his own restaurant in Manila.

Thai Dara, formally "Thai Icon" is located along Granada Street (also known as Gilmore Avenue Extension) in Quezon City.

The restaurant fuses classic Thai dishes with contemporary Bangkok street food.

We're unsure runs the risks with starters James.....James Rea, registered health care professional who insists on the all-natural ingredients in the food that Thai Dara serves.

"There is no MSG in the food that we prepare. The ingredients stems from Thailand and even our curry is mixed by my family in set home in Bangkok, using only the freshest ingredients from our local Thai markets. We personally select our vegetables, fish and meats daily. Thus, our prices? We don't use them either. We think it's the task of an undefined chef. We mix our sauces from scratch. So, pre-mixed curry, bottled sauces or frozen vegetables. No, it's a lot more trouble to do it this way, but we know customers can taste the difference. And besides, we eat here, too," says James W.

The food is a mix of old and new. Bangkok Street food like Pork Satay, Pork Jerky, Spring Rolls, Pad Thai, 4 Flavor (Chicken) Lollipop, Tiger BBQ Chicken and Pak Boong (Kangkong) are served alongside favorites like Tom Yum, Green Curry Chicken, Basil Chicken, Panang Curry Beef, Boat Noodle Soup.

PAPAAING Curry Beef

The surprises include the Satay Fish.....James W's take on Green Mango Catfish Salad; Tamarind Fish, Sizzling Seafood and Tilapia Sweet Pahanaew.

James B says Thai Dara can prepare vegetarian menus for vegetarians on demand, and recommend and prepare Thai food that can address special health concerns such as weight loss, diabetes, high cholesterol and anti-aging. Thai Dara also caters.

The restaurant's interiors are in white, with a spread of galvanized iron stretched across a part of the walls and ceiling. Orange Thai décor and colored pillows add texture to the look; a video screen plays Thai pop music videos on the wall.

Upstairs, Bangkok parasols cover al fresco and bamboo stalks serve as curtains.

Thai Dara is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. 'til 9 p.m. daily; it is open till 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays (closed for lunch on Mondays). It is located at 56 Granada St., Barangay Valencia, Quezon City.

For inquiries, please call 9111356 and 0908 3656358.

Three-chef resto here, quick Chinese chow over there

A FORMIDABLE trio of creative chefs rule the kitchen of Yen, a new addition to the culinary landscape, at The Block of 388 North Eden. On another side of the street, formerly occupied by various incarnations of the phrase "Lemon Mission" has been elevated to the level of good food at a restaurant in Makati.

Then, Filipino and Spanish Cuisine—G/F The Block, 388 Gen Luna St. North Eden; tel 9123704. Surprisingly, a restaurant of elegant ambiance serving innovative food has surfaced in an SM complex.

Dining area...Small, cozy and tastefully done in brown and beige, no garish décor here against the wall plus comfortable chairs.

Service...Hard, efficient

Staff—courteous

Suggested menu...While in flyer says Filipino-Spanish cuisine, the place also has a sprinkling of Chinese dishes. The personal stamp of the masters carried out by resident chef Sisinio is evident. Take the appetizer Beef Salpicao, tender bites of prime meat with garlic in an exquisite garlic sauce. Or Lamb Adobo. Smeared in mark with whole, unpeeled garlic (hmmmm), the better to have each bite with a clove. There's Crispy Kare-Kare with a twist and the traditional Pecilo Valenciana. For veggies, there is Lumpy. Pan all those with raw octopus to Diablo, the Ballong, cooked with ripe shrimps. For dessert, you can't go wrong with the Ilygo ate Bassana. Like Tawas served with vanilla sauce.

Prices: are SM-inclusive. Service charge is not collected; instead cash is honored.

Rating -

Ludong Macao—1/F Jupiter, Bel-Air, Makati (02) 751 6867??.

For very quick Chinese meals, this is the place to go. "Lutong Macao" wasn't a phrase referring to something delicious, underhanded, involving delight of hand. This restaurant has obviated that phrase to delicious food at reasonable cost.

Dining area—Always crowded, noisy and fast-paced. Because of fast turnover, tables remain only cleared plates, etc. for a while.

Service...Food comes in minutes, in quick succession. Like a lot of Chinese restaurants, spoons and forks are interred in glasses containing hot water. Chopsticks are provided.

Staff—Enthusiastic to the point of being breathless, but are quick to respond.

Suggested menu—Our friend, who is a regular diner, highly recommended the dishes for our meal. We took her word and she was vindicated. Start with a glass of house tea. Then relish the list (more orally lig) Salad with cornstick dressing, the perfectly done Crispy Sole and Pepper Pork Siomai (in, guess a veggie dish and definitely chili rice. Or opt for a Combination Platters. By the time you're done, you may no longer want any dessert.

Service charge is added to the bill. Senior citizens are honored.

Rating -

THE QUIET DINER

RESTOS AT A GLANCE

RATING INDEX

- Poor
- Good
- Excellent

Laptop cushion with LED lamp.

Stylish, executive-style Zebra pen with expandable and retractable barrel.

Dayrah Signature Collection sketchbooks and notebooks comes with premium cream paper and a duo-tone soft cover.

SM STATIONERY'S STOCKING STUFFERS GIFTS FOR CO-WORKERS

Since many of us spend a lot of time at work, it's a most good thing to make colleagues, clients, and business associates important this Christmas with these gift ideas from SM Stationery.

Gift giving not only brings the Christmas spirit to the office, but it also is a way to show how much you appreciate your co-workers. And it does wonders for improving the office environment and working relationships.

There are desktop accessories and organizers to give their workspace a new look, journals and sketchbooks where they jot down their thoughts, as well as stamps, memo cards, and stick-on notes that they will be forever needing in their everyday work.

Great for secret Santa fun, exchange gifts, or presents for office pals, the collection is available at the Stationery Section of all SM Department Stores. Also, visit our website at www.stationery.com.ph.

Sturdy acrylic organizer with matching desk accessories and supplies.

Made in resin and page markers in a sleek leatherette holder.

Wood with mesh metal [illegible] feature for a desktop-free workspace.

PAN-FRIED US scallops with sautéed asparagus and truffle oil

OVEN-BAKED herb-crusted Chilean sea bass with mashed pumpkin, sautéed asparagus and orange sauce

What makes Rima in Boracay Shangri-La unique? Says executive chef Gianluca Visciglia: 'Me!'

marie france FOR MEN

GET RID OF YOUR SPARE TIRE
with CoolSculpting

Tummy bulges, love handles, dbl@—you name it, men hate it. Getting rid of the stubborn fat is serious business. Face the facts, you may lose the weight by doing workouts and diets, but these alone can't remove the hard-to-lose bulges, love handles and back fat. Don't stress yourself, there's a fast and easy solution to get rid of stubborn fat and have a resculpted body all at once: CoolSculpting.

What is CoolSculpting?
CoolSculpting is the latest in body contouring. It's an FDA-approved non-invasive treatment that uses the ZELTIQ advanced cooling technology to eliminate fat cells and trim down fat bulges that are diet/workout-resistant. It's perfect for those who want to get rid of love handles and fat in the back and abdominal areas.

How does CoolSculpting work?
CoolSculpting uses precisely controlled cooling to eliminate fat cells in specific areas of the body. The cooling gently weakens the fat cells until they become smaller, and will then be eliminated through natural metabolic processes. This advanced technology is called Cryolipolysis, a breakthrough innovation discovered by a Harvard-based research team.

What results can be expected from CoolSculpting?
Clinical studies have shown that an average of 22.4% of fat layer reduction can be seen in just one treatment. Clients who have tried CoolSculpting have seen and felt a dramatic change in their stubborn fat bulges.

How safe is CoolSculpting?
It's safe with NO surgery, NO anaesthesia, NO pain and NO downtime. It's US-FDA approved for non-invasive fat reduction. CoolSculpting only cools and shrinks fat cells in specific areas, leaving the skin and surrounding tissues unharmed.

How long does the procedure last?
A single session lasts for an hour or two, depending on the size of the area to be treated. You can just lie down and relax while undergoing the procedure.

More than 7,000 clients worldwide have been successfully resculpted by CoolSculpting. Be one of them. Call FOR MEN at 818-7888 for a free private consultation today.

Truffle oil in foam—Italian cooking made 'molecular'

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

PERCHED ON the slope of Boracay Shangri-La, covered with trees and foliage, is the resort's Indian restaurant, Rima. It's built around the theme of treehouse villas linked by stone pathways and the main winding road.

Deservedly dishing the tastiest masala from October to summer, Rima ("rhythm," in Indian) offers a repertoire that combines the best of Indian cooking—the hottest dishes of the north, the seafood fare and olive oil from the south, the straightforward cooking of Tuscany and the chef's haute cuisine skills.

The place is intimately built for 36 as that the diners can experience seductive ambience.

Asked what makes Rima different from other Indian restaurants, executive chef Gianluca Visciglia replies: "Me!"

He's not saying it from ego. It means, the cooking is simple but presented with individuality, if never, touches that only accomplished chefs such as Visciglia can do, whip.

He creates dishes with some Indo notes, such as pizza topped with smoked salmon, pungent brie cheese, lemon arugula dusted with pepper, or the ethereally light, black olive gnocchi with prawns in classic tomato sauce and fresh basil.

For the heavens dinner, Visciglia presents an indulgent medley of fish and meat dishes

SPAGHETTI tossed with clams and zucchini in saffron sauce

TIMPLA

Timpla
THE WORLD
Timpla lovers with new recipes, cooking techniques, and handy tips for the beginner cook.

OVEN-BAKED pistachio-crusted tuna, (below) sautéed eggplant with fresh buffalo mozzarella

The meal starts with pan-fried US scallops with sautéed asparagus shrouded by a mist of truffle air. Visciglia explains the dish is his version of molecular cuisine—a new kind of gastronomy which explores the physics and chemistry of cooking and how the senses interpret one's appreciation of food.

Visciglia creates tasty truffle oil into foam, thereby making the presentation more visual and the taste less oily.

From the vegetarian menu, he serves strikingly tender, fresh buffalo mozzarella on herb sautéed eggplant and tangy tomato—all of them under a mantle of fried parmesan cheese.

Handmade spaghetti

The handmade spaghetti glistens under the toned clams and zucchini, made rich and deeply flavorful with the saffron sauce. The arborio rice with US beef tenderloin, slowly cooked in red wine reduction, is to-swoon-yet delicious.

"This risotto dish comes from Milan, famous for rice. The cooking is different—done very slowly to release the flavors until it is tender and creamy," says Visciglia.

Drizzled with extra virgin olive oil, the oven-baked tuna is surrounded with crispy pistachios and a vegetable aioli dish. The Chilean sea bass looks inviting as it is propped up on mashed pumpkin instead of the usual potato, and it leans against a tower of sautéed asparagus spears. The fish is sweet, with herb crust adding texture, balanced by the tangy orange butter sauce.

The lamb chop is grilled to tenuous perfection, subtly layered with secret mountain spices and extra virgin olive oil. It rests on a bed of delicate slices of roasted potatoes and sautéed spinach.

The meal ends with a classic tiramisu dish. There is no gelatin since it kills the flavor, Visciglia notes. The presentation is sophisticated. Instead of chunky lady fingers, it is topped with swipes of labneh, pre-soaked in amaretto-infused coffee, for a graphic effect and embellished with triangles of white and dark chocolate.

Visciglia says the restaurant's signature chicken curry is more mere purusa flambéed with brandy and mixed with lemon; ravioli stuffed with porcini mushrooms in gorgonzola and walnut sauce; and grilled American rib eye with porcini, parmesan shavings and arugula.

There are vegetarian dishes such as the paneer with eggplant and spices thereof, and the cousin of paneer with flavored with truffles.

At Rima, clearly, Visciglia can play in the kitchen to cater to customers' idiosyncrasies.

Beef Tapa

For more delicious and easy to prepare recipes, get your own copy of TIMPLA, available at Lifestyle Bookstores for only P335.

LIFESTYLE Food

'Bilocano' (Bicol-Ilocano) dishes—in a resto called Pan Amerikana

THIS THANKSGIVING, I thought it would be nice to do things differently. That means celebrating my Ilocano roots—so, obviously, witchear radiay!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aghuyar

I gave fellow IT engineer and restaurateur Dionisio Imbenzo a call to discuss the menu, and together we decided on a typical spread of pinakbet, sinanglang, dinakdakan (our version of sisig), igado, pinaltok, kinalderetang bagnet and, for dessert, inglulo (caramelized nilo).

With that menu in mind, I headed toward the newly opened 1950s Pan Amerikana restaurant along Katipunan Avenue, a place difficult to miss, with an inverted red Land Rover on the façade.

As I walked in, I was surprised to find yet another favored element on the ceiling, a ethnicinal wooden dining set complete with cutlery and fruit baskets, amid a garden-like setting.

The place is not your usual restaurant, something the bartenders take pride in. Aside from serving as Dionisio, also known to those close to him as Jondico, he challenged himself to come up with something different.

"It had to be unique! When our first restaurant in Marikina was recognized by the Department of Tourism for its 'share' theme, we made it a commitment, and pledged that our new branch would be something equally interesting."

UPSIDE-DOWN design

The most expensive dish, apart from the family platters, is the T-bone steak at P170

WHY PAY

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Array of Christmas buffets

DADS ULTIMATE Christmas buffet features Roast Stuffed Turkey (roast turkey stuffed with green apple, chestnuts, walnuts and assorted vegetables and herbs), Ham Bonbon (a slice of sweet ham stuffed with boiled vegetables and seasoned with cream cheese, wrapped in foil and chilled), Seafood Thermidore (puff pastry stuffed with sautéed shrimp, lapu-lapu fillet, squid, mussel and clams and braised with tomato sauce and vin-blanco), Herba Ham, Roast Beef and many more.

Kamayan, meanwhile, has its Padong Pinoy lineup that includes Kamayan Lechon de Leche, Bonok Bisko, Beef Machado, Pork Hamba and Embutido, as well as favorite yuletide desserts such as Crusted Bolo Macaroon (a mixture of crushed graham crackers and condensed milk stuffed with roast mallows rolled in desiccated coconut), Bibingka and Puto Bumbong.

The Dasmas buffet features an array of main and snack rolls that is perfect for the festive season. Take a bite out of any of the following exciting and fresh new offerings: Alaska Beauty Roll (grilled salmon, crabstick and cucumber roll topped with asparagus and salmon roe), Scorpion Roll (crabstick tempura, walnut and Pringles roll topped with seafood), Garden Roll (vegetable roll of pickled radish, Japanese pearl, asparagus, carrots and lily root), Capetok Tuna Roll (pickled radish, Japanese pearl, pickled carrots, chicken mushrooms and cucumber roll topped with strawberry), Tamago Sun Maki (egg omelette roll topped with assorted colored shrimp roe and boiled quail egg) and Shake Oyako (fresh salmon and cheese roll).

DADS Ultimate Buffet is for an adult, over price of P595, and costs P545 during promo days. DADS regular buffet price is at P1,200. Kamayan no-leftover buffet price is at P760, VAT inclusive. Regular buffet price is at P700. Dasmas no-leftover buffet price is P995, and at P925 during promo days, VAT inclusive. Regular buffet price is at P1,250.

For reservations and also for inquiries on catering and take-out, call the following: DADS branches: SM Megamall: (632) 6362795; Glorietta 2: (632) 8928898; Edsa: (632) 7228333; Pedro Faura: (632) 5261726; West Avenue: (632) 4126359.

DINING OUT

Tempura Ice Cream

RAMEN BAY'S Tempura Ice Cream, vanilla ice cream wrapped in bread and deep-fried in tempura batter, is topped with a chocolate stick and chocolate syrup. Cold in the inside and warm and crispy on the outside, this is a unique dessert to end a hearty meal. Ramen Bar is at the 5/F, Eastwood Mall, Eastwood City. Call 6738867 to reserve.

Caviar de Ilugao

Tropical Haven Al Catering offers a fusion of international and Filipino cuisines. Chef Dennis Villacorta prepares signature dishes, such as Adobo Linguine, a creamy-white sauce pasta with the Filipino adobo twist; Caviar de Ilugao, an appetizing uncooked halo-halo on melba toast; Belly Mocho, a slow roasted pork a special Tropical sauce that melts in your mouth; Camaron Tropical, grilled tiger shrimp topped with caramelized shallots and pesto dressing; Buttered Salad, mixed greens, ripe mango, shrimp and cherry tomato tossed in Asian pesto dressing; and Cocochelle, Tropical's version of Ferrero Rocher that is oven baked to crisp perfection, minus the fat. Dessert include the recipes of Chef Sid Patacsil, such as Halo-Halo Cheesecake, a fusion of tangy cheesecake and halo-halo sweetness; and the Original Sin, a heady flourless chocolate cake wrapped with dulce caramel sauce that oozes rich chocolate when sliced. Call 399-3018 or 8474004 and look for Shampoo Ancuan or Alpoq; website: www.tropicalcatering.multiply.com or www.tropicc.com

Grape Coolers

Tempura Bay's new California Grape Coolers pack a double dose of freshness and health. Made with the freshest grapes from California, the coolers come in two flavors—California Grape Watermelon Perici (made from watermelon tea syrup and red grapes) and California Grape Sago Shake (made with high-protein sago), embedded with black grapes and tea syrup.

Chocolates and pastries

Richmonde Lobby Café offers holiday goodies—an assortment of Yuletide pastries and best-sellers including Almond Cheese Bread (₱190), Bacon-Garlic Bread (₱190), Mocapuccino Delight with Cashew Bread (₱380), Strawberry Swirl Bread (₱180), Cinnamon-Raisin Bread (₱150), Choco-Banana Walnut Bread (₱250), Crunchy Chocolate Caramel Cake Decadence (₱410 for 6" and ₱660 for 8"), Triple Chocolate Cake (₱350 for 6" and ₱610 for 8"), Mixed Chocolate Caramel Cake (6"- ₱380), White Chocolate Mocha Cake (₱410 for 6" and ₱610 for 8"), Holiday Fruit Cake (₱380), and Pistachio-Vanilla Chocolate Cake (₱410 for 6" and ₱610 for 8"), plus exquisite pralines with Bons (Betty's & Almond Praline) and cookies (Oatmeal Raisin & Choco Chip Cookies).

Buy some Christmas Chocolate Lollipops for only ₱20, and get to help be reunited and abused children in the care of Jessie Lowe, the Little Children Foundation, Inc. (LLCFI). Dubbed "Chocolates for Charity Program," proceeds from the sale will be donated to LLCFI to support its cause. Promo is available only until Jan. 1, 2011. The Richmonde Hotel is at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 6387777 local 31720 to inquire or order. Bulk orders should be placed two days in advance.

MOZZARELLA MUSHROOM BURGER

The Texas Roadhouse Grill offers Western Spring Rolls (minced beef and vegetables wrapped in crispy flour tortilla), the new Pan-grilled Cajun Fish Fillet (made with Cajun seasoning and topped with creamy dijonaise sauce and tangy pico de gallo); the Grilled Chicken with Mushroom (chicken breast rubbed with Cajun seasoning, grilled to moist perfection and topped with a rich mushroom sauce); the new Rodeo Beef (marinated sirloin sautéed with an oregano cream reduction sauce topped with onion rings. If you want classic American burgers try the new Roadhouse Red Chile Burger (with original Texas chili, ranch dressing, onions, pickles and tomato, sprinkled with grated cheese and topped with crispy fried onions); the Mozzarella Mushroom Burger (a beef of fresh sautéed mushrooms, mozzarella cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickles, thousand island and ranch dressing). Texas Roadhouse branches are located in Bonifacio High Street in Taguig City, 8561347 and 8561499; and the Ortigas branch in El Pueblo Real (tel. 6356711 and 6356716).

MANILA SPANISH

Heaven and Eggs (S/F, Sherwin's 4, Avelo Center, Makati City, tel. 8187791; Eastwood City Walk 1, Aurora Circle, Quezon City, tel. 8121112) offers Manila Spanish (89.8, Lovin' Lechon Longganisa, US-Angus Tapa, and Salt and Pepper Pork Ribs.

ADOBONG PUSO RICE

Qwik'n' Qr Wraparound is a new way to enjoy the classic adobo with the Adobong Puso Rice. The dish features rice and pork slices cooked adobo style and wrapped in banana leaves to give it a heart shape. The flavors of the rice and meat merge together, enhancing each other to give the adobo recipe its unique flavor. Once served, the "puso" wrapping traps the flavor and adobo scent within the small package and will only be released once the guest slices open the leaves. It's a complete meal for one, with the rice and pork slices enough for two people. One simply has to add another favorite dish like Crispy Pata or Lechon na Pusit plus a couple of drinks and you already have a virtual lunch or dinner feast on the table. To enjoy Qwik'n' Qr 88 Adobong Puso Rice, visit one of its 42 branches including the newly opened Boracay branch in Station 1.

CUCHI FRITO

The Flying Pig (₱199.00/kg., 3/F, Delgado cor. Tomas Morato, QC; G/L, cor. Eastwood Mall, tel. 7919806, 9355555) offers Cuchi Frito (roasted suckling pig fried to perfection, served with bacon rice pilaf and habanero beer), King Sampler (sisig, chicharon and chicken) and Classic Cuties, Smoked Cocktails: Sizzling Pig, Pasita con Salpicao and the Bangin' Bagnet Bocadillo.

CALIFORNIA GRAPE COOLERS

Pancake House offers healthy new drinks and dishes. Pancake House has partnered with California Grape Coolers—the classy Grape Almond Rice Smoothie, a healthy combination of Red California grapes, vanilla smoothie mix, milk and almond rice syrup. Try the Fresh Black Grape Zippy, a nice quencher of California black grapes combined with ice and a slice of rice syrup. Visit www.facebook.com.

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Yogurt is actually considered a low-fat dairy culture using live and active organisms that help your body functional well. These live cultures or good bacteria's in the body of harmful bacteria that cause diseases and infections. These bacteria promote better digestion as well and prevent urinary tract infections.

Some would even say that it's actually better than milk!

Yes Yes Yo! Frozen Yogurt also comes with a variety of healthy toppings. Choose from strawberries, mango, apple, avocado, banana, lychee, melon, orange and pineapple. But if you crave the more traditional toppings, try the chocolate, cheese chips, rice crispies, crushed peanuts, mallows and more.

Yes Yes Yo! Frozen Yogurt is available at SM Bacoor. For inquiries, call 0916-6883838.

'Bilocano' (Bicol-Ilocano) dishes . . .

From page D1

Warm and homey

The place is charming, warm and homey. As I sat down, I asked for the menu and found out that the dishes are mostly "Bilocano"—a merry mix of Ilocano and Bicolano specialties (Candido, being Ilocano, and Ilonic his wife, Bicolano) with a generous sprinkling of Filipino favorites.

Unbelievable were the prices on the menu. I thought they handed me the list of the items as you order than their real menu. The most expensive dish, apart from the family platters, was the T-bone steak at P170. Majority of the items were priced at somewhere of P40.

"Actually, we wanted all as a coffee shop to showcase our pan de sal. But eventually, we became a restaurant. It is more of a spin-off than a diversification. Our desire is to bring back heirlo-based dishes, keeping the heirloom concept of ordering by the canasta, treating food at the best possible quality at a very affordable price," said Olondriz.

The restaurant seems to have all the necessary factors to make it succeed: novelty, ambiance, value for money and home-cooked food that needs no elaboration.

Moreover, the Salvadors have made it a point to throw in many extras, like their Lenel Abanes needlework and the renowned textile likewise declared with the artist's hand-painted bolek-kisaks; the kitchen chairs that Amelia herself made, as caught to him by hatibol designer Ilon Hechavia Ignacio; a monument to the Land Snow... a wall full of Defender photos and memories, yet another of the engineer's many pastimes.

In a few days, you will find panels of homegrown superstar sandwiches where customers can go sandwiches picking, have them cooked as they wish, by the kilo. The owner's sandwiches symposia with honey mustard sauce is my favorite!

But more than all the frills that come with the 1956s Pan de Amerikano Restaurant, it is Amelia and Rosie's dream to exhibit the fruits of their employees that I find most admirable. In all their businesses, they have made their employees part owners, making them shareholders and thus empowering them.

Admirable

It is in their very own backyard where they serve "bario-style" dishes, that the Salvadors have decided to practice, refine and rediscover the true Filipino spirit of hayandhan. That is the secret of their success.

If you have a craving for the way food was prepared in your youth, done the way people did them in the provinces, then this place is made a visit.

Call 4752398. For my holiday cooking class schedules, call 09175393708, 09088237345, 8088406 or 9280290.

E-mail: rayde.reading@gmail.com.ph

INTERIORS interiors

New Richmonde hotel opens in Eastwood City

EASTWOOD RICHMONDE Hotel opens in Eastwood City.

It's offering special introductory rates until Dec. 30, starting at P4,000 net for single or double occupancy inclusive of breakfast at Eastwood Café.

Like its predecessor in Ortigas, it has first-rate facilities, warm atmosphere, efficient and gracious service, with contemporary and stylish interiors.

Its 130 guest rooms have high-speed connectivity via wired and Wi-Fi Internet access and multifunctional telephone system, personal entertainment from 37" LCD TV with cable channels, DVD player and iPod dock with alarm clock; and luxe beds with pocketed-spring mattresses, down-feather duvets, and 300-thread-count sheets.

DELUXE room

Room types range from the superior and deluxe rooms, to the one-bedroom and the two-to-four bedroom suites.

On the lobby level are three restaurants: Eastwood Café offers international cuisine. The Gallery is a nightspot for drinks and entertainment. The Lounge on the lobby has beverages, sweetmeats and freshly baked pastries.

There are multi-functional banquet facilities for corporate events and social affairs; a fitness center on the 29th floor, with gym, personal trainers, sauna rooms, a rooftop swimming pool and a view of the city; and a business center, meeting rooms and private offices for rent.

HOTEL Lobby

On the hotel's second level are pampering stations, Basement Eastwood Tru-Spa.

Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is at 17 Orchard Rd., Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, QC, 1110 Philippines.

Introductory rates are valid for local and foreign guests with ACR who book directly through the hotel's Reservations Office.

Call 5787777, e-mail erh@richmondehotel.com.ph; visit www.richmondehotel.com.

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A delightful cup of adventure this Christmas

It's the perfect time to travel and Hong Kong has the most festive events this season

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

CHRISTMAS TIME is in the air again - which means it's that time of the year to, once more, dedicate most of the festive season to travel with loved ones during the lengthy vacation days and spend some quality moments together.

It's common knowledge that Hong Kong is arguably the shopping capital of Asia. But anybody who has been in this country would know that there's so much more to Hong Kong than swiping your credit card for a new pair of shoes.

Over the years, Hong Kong has considerably built new attractions and thrown exciting festivals that has kept its millions of visitors coming back for more, especially during the Yuletide season. So if you think you've seen all there is to see in Hong Kong, think again.

There are some interesting places to visit in Hong Kong, perfect for travelers who are looking for a different cup of adventure this Christmas time:

Marvel at the Swarovski Christmas Tree

One of the highlights of this year's Winter Fest (which runs until January 2011) is the world's famous, 30-meter-tall Swarovski Christmas Tree adorned with over 20,000,000 Swarovski crystals. Over 200 illuminous light up at night to further enhance the décor's ethereal vision in an interactive lighting effect. Welcoming the New Year **Hong Kong style is even more fun - with the** huge crowds that take part in the exciting countdown celebrations all over town.

Catch the Mr and Mrs Incredible film

While enjoying the cool weather of Hong Kong this time of the year, catch the silver-animated film "Mr and Mrs Incredible," which showcases celebratory program across different districts and major attractions in Hong Kong through the story's major characters. Hong Kong's panoramic views, snowy theme parks, and dazzling lights of the city take center stage in the film.

Watch the light show at Victoria Harbour

Long famous for its visual treat during the Christmas and New Year season, brights illuminated displays on both sides of Victoria Harbour come alive this season. The experience is made perfect if enjoyed while cruising the famed harbor aboard The Bowtie, a vintage-themed ship perfect for hosting Christmas parties this season.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

Who is this cutie and why is she on Piolo's lap?
Rushes Special / E4

JENNYLYN MERCADO and Yul Servo play husband and wife in "Rosa Ilo," a romantic epic drama about a liberated young woman who falls in love with an older man. One of the eight official entries to the 10-day 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival, it is based on the life of TV5 big boss and co-producer Manny V. Pangilinan's grandmother, who lived in the 1930s.

Franco, Hathaway to co-host Oscars

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—Bruce Cohen and Don Mischer, producers of the 80th Academy Awards telecast, said on Monday they had chosen James Franco and Anne Hathaway as hosts because the two are rising stars with broad talents that will help turn the night into a celebration of film. AP

ANNE Hathaway and James Franco

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MOVIEWORLD

Choosing the first Pan-Asian girl group

LAST MONDAY, I was in Hong Kong to be one of the celebrity judges in the search for a brand new Pan-Asian girl group.

When you think "girl group," the names that come to mind are the Spice Girls, Wonder Girls, 2NE1, Pussycat Dolls and, of course, the mother of all girl groups, The Supremes. Well, a brand new one has just been formed, with an album launching early next year.

The search was titled Project Lotus (you can check out its website: www.projectlotus.tv for more on this). The new group would be comprised of five girls from different Asian countries: China, India, Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

Project Lotus is the brainchild of Barbera Saverimuttu, familiar to late night talk show audiences in Asia as the host of "Asia Uncut." The search began a few months ago, with Jim plus the resident judges and coaches—Elan Kennedy (producer), Philippe Monteiro (vocal coach), David Lin (choreographer)—scouring all over Asia after scouring through thousands of video-taped auditions.

After the preliminary search, they whittled the auditionees down to 30, who then underwent academy-style training in singing and dance, plus fitness coaching. I saw an abbreviated video of the training sessions. When Dana ladies were put through a lot.

After a few eliminations rounds (with each week raising the level of tension), it was time for the finals. For this, judged a singing contest before 3,000 ages for "Philippine Idol" alongside Ronnie Liangkoa, Pilita Corrales and Ryan Cayabyab), but this competition carried weight of a different kind. The girl group that would be formed would not only need to sing and dance well, but look great, possess personality, be team players and become essentially representatives of the many lands.

Final round

For the final round, there were 10 girls (two from each of the five countries). There 10 were then separated into two groups of five (Group East and Group West) and made to compete in three rounds.

The first round had each group covering a classic song (Group East sang the Prince classic "Kiss," while Group West rendered Rachelle and Charlie Wilde's "Hello On By").

The second round had each group singing the exact same original song (which will be released as a single in early 2011).

BACK STORY

Lest Sulongo

The last round had all 10 together on stage singing another original. The judges were each given a clipboard, pens and judging sheets with the girls' names, the countries they're from, and a space for comments.

Each girl would be in direct competition with her companion, as in the two Pinay girls were competing for one single spot.

After all this performance were completed, the judges (which now included international hairdresser Kim Seldenson and Grammy nomination choir emcee Steve Schauer) then gathered for hand-dried doors to deliberate for which pairs (here were group performances on stage by guests Jonathan Wong and Dianjie Tan, both incredible musicians and vocalists).

All the judges had their say as to who should be part of this new girl group. The discussion were spirited (and at times heated), with every judge lifting the needs of one girl versus another from the same country.

Thankfully, a few of the decisions made were very easy, but a couple were a bit more difficult. Depending on the judge's area of expertise, the criteria for performing one girl over another would change. There were a lot to consider: Talent, musicality, looks, personality and likeability and temperament.

Best assets

Even though one girl was a better singer, for example, another might have better "stage player" skills, and we had to factor our decisions based on what would be best for the group.

So, allow me introduce the group formed by Project Lotus. Hindi, its members: Victoria Chan (China), Shoko Buchhorst (India), Natsuko Danjo (Japan), Ji-Hee Lee (Korea) and Angeli Flores (Philippines). As I write, the girls are now having their first face-to-session together.

The possibilities, when you think about it, are very exciting. I don't believe that a Pan-Asian girl group has ever been formed. (The Wonder Girls and 2NE1 are both Korean.) There is such diversity in the group that was formed, not only in their features, but also in their personalities.

There will be someone and something that their fans can relate to. There's a glamour girl, a tomboy, a diva. One is classically beautiful, another cooks and toys precocious. And they all have great vocal strength, which for me took this trip to Hong Kong worthwhile.

To the members of 1Rok, congratulations and best wishes! Enjoy your accolades for the rest of your life. Things will never be the same.

Trudis 2's hobby—watching herself on YouTube

LIKE ANY other girl, Kapuso child star Lillian Muad loves playing with dolls and stuffed animals. At the tender age of 5, the spunky kid is also fascinated with the latest mobile gadgets.

The pigtailed sweetheart revealed in an interview on "Unang Hirit" that her favorite gadget is her white netbook, which she uses for anything the but the said one of her favorite activities online is watching videos of herself on YouTube.

Lillian played the title role in GMA 7's remake of the 1963 classic film, "Trudis Liit." Dubbed as "Ultra 2.0...Si Iisa sa Lahat," the movie is currently streaming in theaters Nationwide. Titled "Kumunekta Ka!" where the portrays a magical doll and assumes of Janice Chua, played by Michael V.

Rushes Special

Car mishap

Kapuso star Jennifer Oliver's husband, John Timothy Tan, figured in a car accident at around 11 p.m. on Monday night in Barangay Bulihan, Angeles City, Pampanga.

Killed in the accident was Jo Sara Alignay, 66, according to a report aired Tuesday on MBCDN's "Umaganga Ang Gavela." Alignay was hit by the black car that Tan was driving.

The report quoted witnesses as saying that Tan had hit Alignay as she crossed the road. He was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Willing support

Willie Revillame's kind fans lately vowed to accompany the controversial TV host in every one of his hearings resulting from the P127 million campaign ad expenses lawsuit filed by MMDA spokesman Jun.

Melchi Mendoza, a.k.a. "Willing Willie" fan, packed the courtroom, Bulacan Provincial Prosecutor Atty. Rosalinda Baldoz, a frustrated Boots Garay "Spoon-fudge-n-wear-ing manager," said Jr. Linda, who won P1 million, a house and lot, and a brand new car.

The 11-page complaint filed by Revillame's former mother network claims that "Willing Willie" has plagiarized the format of its now defunct noontime show, "Showtime," in a statement, ABC-CBN said "Willing" was cut to rival the goodwill that "Showtime" built over five years of airing.

Soulful voices

Monday night at the Music Museum, Jay-R and Rida, reunited on stage for the concert "Soul Mates." Present were their real-life "soul mates." Jay-R's beauty queen sweetheart, Krista Herrera, performed a number in the show, and "Unang Hirit" reporter Ian Sheday that Rida's boyfriend, Talk and Text Tropang Texters groupie turned, Rich Alvarez, was in the audience.

Women vs Jolie

SARAJEVO—Phoenix cops rescues in Bosnia say they will eyeplain in the UN refugee agency dismissed goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie, who has not classified romances about her movie.

The rape victims were outraged on hearing that Jolie's directorial debut was about a victim in a rape camp falling in love with her rapist.

Jolie premiered a meeting with the women last month, and moved down to the shooting in Budapest, but they said Jolie should never show in Bosnia. AP

Who hates Johnny?

NEW YORK—Johnny Depp's flamboyant portrayal of Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean" was good enough for an Oscar nomination, but the actor says Disney was less than thrilled.

Depp talked about it to an interview with radio host Patti Smith for the January edition of Vanity Fair magazine. Depp said Disney "wanted more" for Sparrow and that one studio exec even asked if Sparrow was gay. Depp told the Disney official, "If my characters are gay" I'm comfortable "with it. It made me nervous." AP

Papa Pickt's date

Steve Allmon Schooley was Dicks Durstall's date at the opening of his photo exhibit at Folly Booked in The Post, Tuesday, on Nov. 26. The exhibit is now in Eastwood Mall until Dec. 16.

Bye for now

LOS ANGELES—Lady Gaga and Justin Timberlake are among the celebrities who have decided to temporarily exit social networking websites to help raise money for needy children, local media reported. The two said they will stay off Twitter and Facebook until $1 million has been raised for the charity "Keep A Child Alive."

The event is organized by R&B singer Alicia Keys. AFP

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last week's golden or TV chat (why we are sound, if we are sound.)

- Jamie Pantoja on rumors he physically beat girlfriend Micka Castillejos.

Solving sepalcholil case, opus... Hindi ko yan kayang gawin. Impossible ng isang... Ano ako mahilig sa away... Ako ang nakaka-bugbog?

- Robin Padilla, asked if he would ask Mariel Rodriguez to drop TV hosting:

No way. Magaling na host si Mariel ... Kapag ang mga dalawa ay nagsama-sama ... Kung kailangan niya, susuko na lang. Kung kailangan niya, pumunta sa ibang iyon. Pilipino, sa mundo kailangan. Hindi ako, ang mga kaya ako. Mahusay, mahusay ang mga ito. Kung kailangan niya, pumunta sa ibang iyon. Pilipino, sa mundo kailangan. Hindi ako, ang mga kaya ako. Mahusay, mahusay ang mga ito.

- Willie Revillame on the new one-hour filed against him in ABS-CBN:

WILLIE Revillame

JILLIAN Ward

It is recommended Jeng Jeng pull no pull at this my MBCDN. Ala naman ang mga ng pagsisi ng programa na "Pinoy Dream Academy Season 3" (Don't we guess why?)

- Geoff Eigenmann on his relationship with Anne Curtis:

May komplikasyon... But Dad's part of the relationship. I'm not really worried, it's quite. It means there's really something there, and if you want it to work, it works. (Right.)

- Geoff's message to Carlo Aquino and Bea Saw: "Be careful."

If there's any problem, I'm here to talk... Wala naman kaming issues. (Good boyfriend!)

- Jamie Gibbs on his reported "depression":

I... ahm, was not feeling my normal self. Ako rin parang hindi ko alo multiplay ang sa ito. Pero kaka-uwi ko lang sa gamot ko talaga ako. Minsan, mag-isa lang ako. Minsan, madalas. Minsan, pero kasi talaga. (Well, that clarifies things.) - The Inquirer Abiertas, Showbiz Central and Gerry Plana and Allen Palmarejo, Correspondents

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SHOW TIME

CARMI Gomez

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NOW SHOWING at GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

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Pinoy musical restaged

A REVIVAL of the popular musical "Magsimula Kal" featuring original Filipino songs will be staged on Dec. 4, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum in Kamuning. Claire Belle and the cast of Pinoy Dream Academy. Call 891-9999.

NBK party

"Grandchildren If..." part two of the annual Christmas party of National Book Kiddoos (NBK), will be held on Dec. 4, 10 a.m. at Republiq in Dream World, Bicutan.

The event features readers Dibz, Liz Manalet Dado, David Jacob, Mare Antal and drawing demo, plus live performances from guests Claire Cleveland, singer Ian David and percussionist Bb. Guerrero. Call or text Teddy Dado at 0917-8905204.

Tomorrow

"Epic: Legend of Pinoy Folk Rock" featuring Ben Asa Ok to Cruz Band, Sampaguita, Florante, Lolita Carbon, Heber Bartolome, Joey Ayala and Noel Cabangon at the Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-0000.

GARFIELD — By JIM DAVIS

A-LIFE — By JOS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — By ROY LUCES

DICK TRACY

LOVEBYNOTS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BARF BLUES — By JIMMY SCOTT

ROBO MACHINE — By MANOY ABREN

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

ANG DRAYBER — By ED BELLO AD RAPOS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK — By MARK CELL

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're ready to fight for an idealistic cause today, especially in a district place where you feel your talents are desired. You want to make a difference by practicing new skills.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A striking something today you'll be guessing. While not to suggest liking, don't forget to spend your spare time wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're willing to help performers and share friendly today. You feel sympathetic to others, and because of this, you want to increase your efforts to improve something.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Today you're keen to help co-workers. You also might look for opportunities to help humanitarian, particularly to assist the needs of others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're in touch with your inner child because of this, you're quite opportunistic to express your playful and creative. Romance is heightened.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You'll go out of your way to help a family member today, and vice versa. This is a good day to work collectively with others to make good feelings effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Did you exercise your influence to help others today, you will – especially through writing or talking. You might be all in motion as you address issues the feeling of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Of romance today, you will be tempted by several romantic delights, although more might that best may not your needs. Be sure you pay for them!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You might see your ability to work on behalf of others today. Feelings of sympathy, especially for those who are less fortunate, are strong. You want to help someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) When it comes to dealing with others, you're not very shy or just that – your ego interests in those of someone else? Solo duty, if others are in need, they will become choice. People find sympathetic to such other today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It's best to assert yourself in a group situation today. You might have to do so, as other quick-witted and brings ideas. It's a matter of day.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your ambitions to succeed in work need today. You can work to see the needs and hopes of others, and this makes you path your career (positively connected things).

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	7	3	6	5	9	8	4
6	3	4	8	9	7	2	1	5
9	5	8	2	4	1	3	6	7
3	8	6	4	7	9	5	2	1
1	4	2	6	5	8	7	9	3
5	7	9	1	3	2	8	4	6
8	6	3	7	1	4	6	5	2
4	2	1	5	8	6	4	7	9
7	9	5	9	2	3	1	8	8

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Tuley

6		1		7				5
8								
	7			1		3		
5	9				2			8
		8				5		
1			4				7	6
		6		3			4	
								9
4				5		8		3

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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For 125 years, AVON has been empowering generations of women to find their individual voices as they strive to make their dreams come true.

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Every voice counts! Join in and sing out!

- Participate in the singing talent search.
- SING
- Enter the song-writing competition. (For Women & Men)
- WRITE
- Help find the next global voice.
- VOTE

Put your voice in the spotlight.

You could end up recording an album to be released in more than 60 countries. Fly to exciting destinations where you record and work with music industry professionals. Enjoy glam AVON Makeovers!

Upload your video at AVONVOICES.COM starting December 1, 2010 until February 10, 2011. Open to women only!

Write the next hit song.

This is your chance to share your story by writing straight from the heart. Write an original song that inspires hope and optimism. Submit an MP3 and lyric sheet at AVONVOICES.COM between May 30, 2011 and July 1, 2011.

Be the ultimate talent scout.

You don't have to be a singer or a songwriter to join. Recruit all the talented people you know. Watch their videos then vote for your favorite contenders. Voting is throughout 2011.

Let your voice create better lives for women.

Through the universal language of music, you can help raise more awareness and support for AVON's causes for women around the world.

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Twin Oaks Place

GREENFIELD DISTRICT

Control your home wherever you are.

The country's first future-ready community lets you be the master of your home with just a push of a button on your mobile phone or computer. Welcome to Twin Oaks Place. This wireless residential condominium building not only aims to provide you with the usual amenities, it also marks the beginning of a truly smart and connected standard of living with its state-of-the-art technological features. Who says you have to be inside your house to be in charge of it? Twin Oaks Place makes it possible to access and control your home even when you're on the go. As long as you have your mobile phone or computer, you can stay connected to your place wherever you are.

Twin Oaks Place, the first future-ready home.

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Set the temperature the way you want it to. It's perfect when you get home.

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Enter the building and your unit with your mobile phone or iPhone on your key.

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Open or close the curtains according to your preference.

Light Control
Switch on, adjust the brightness, dim it, or turn off the lights.

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Play music in your room and distribute it to the rest of your unit.

Media Hub
Transfer or download files in a matter of seconds with lightning-speed connection.

Mobile Remote Control
Turn off your appliances from outside your home.

Real-time Video
Download online entertainment or watch them in real-time.

video and visual trends although based on present plans may not reflect the most current development hence may be subject to change without prior notice. Greenfield shall only provide the floor-wide backbone to allow the building high-tech facility. The features above are merely optional and are not necessarily standard features of the condominium units. All items needed to connect to the floor-wide backbone of the building from unit shall be for the account of the buyer.

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Personalized Shopping
Shop lavishly in the comfort of your home from stores and restaurants within the district.

Assistance 24/7
From valet service to concierge fill others in your needs any time of the day.

Connectivity Within
Each unit comes with an IP phone which lets you control your home with just a few clicks. It's like having a virtual assistant do all the work for you.

Lush Greenery
Gardens and parks in the district give a breathtaking view of the city and promote a goodly sense of well-being.

Utmost Safety and Protection
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Urban Conveniences
Pedestrian-friendly interconnections between buildings in Greenbelt District makes it easier to get from one place to another.

Recreational Amenities
Gather friends and celebrate special occasions in spacious, private function rooms. Sports enthusiasts will enjoy the swimming pool and fitness centers.

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No distance is too far away with our real-time videoconferencing facilities.

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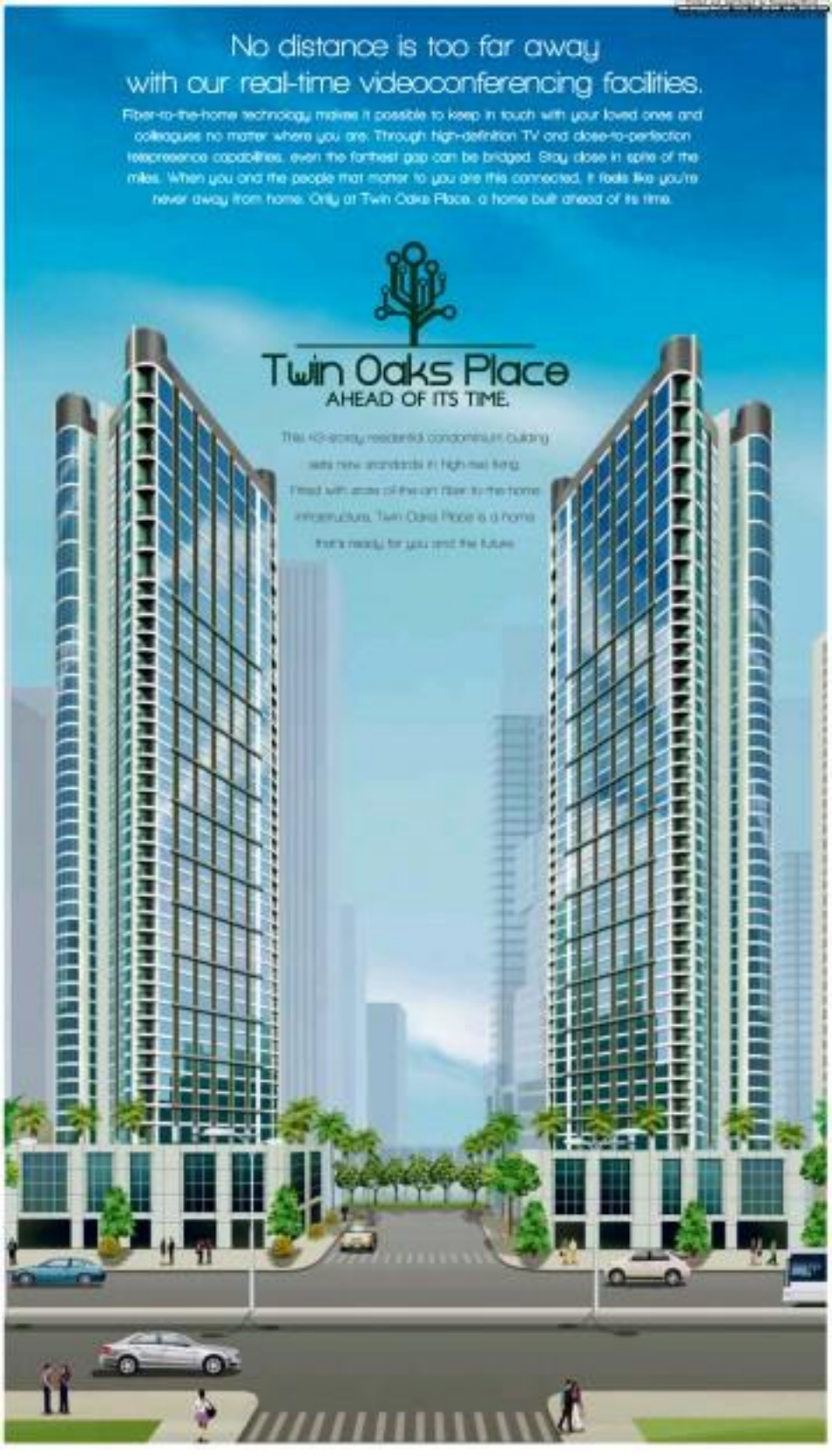

Smart & Connected District

In the heart of Mandaluyong lies a fast growing community that takes pride in being the country's first Smart & Connected District. This is Greenfield District, a prime expanse that houses a master planned community and is home to Twin Oaks Place.

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